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JOHN BULL

Vol. XII. No. 294 SATURDAY, JANUARY 20, 1912. ONE PENNY

[Registered at the G.P.O. as a Newspaper.]

For meaning of this No. see Page III. of cover.

The world is a bundle of hay;
Mankind are the asses who pull;
Each tugs it a different way,
And the greatest of all is John Bull

—BYRON.

Edited by
HORATIO BOTTOMLEY.

AN IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

OF

Great Interest

TO

ALL WOMEN

WILL APPEAR
IN NEXT WEEK'S

MRS. BULL

BARGAINS IN
SECOND-HAND FURNITURE.
TO BE SOLD PRIVATELY BY
The NEWMAN & OXFORD STREET FURNITURE & ANTIQUE DEPOSITORIES (Ltd.),
92, 93, & 94, NEWMAN STREET, OXFORD STREET, W.

The following goods having been removed from Holland Road, Kensington; Glenheim Mansions, Lisson Grove; Summerville Road, Thames Ditton; Maddox Street, W.; Goldhurst Terrace, Hampstead; Westhill, St. Leonards-on-Sea; Theobald's Park, and elsewhere, are offered at half the original cost, and comprise, amongst other articles too numerous to mention, the following general household effects. Bedroom furniture—6 oak bedroom suites, from £4 15s.; 3 white enamelled bedroom suites, from £4 4s.; 5 solid oak bedroom suites, with large wardrobe and dressing table, with side cheval glasses, £5 17s. 6d.; walnut bedroom suite, reflex mirrors to dressing table, £8 8s.; an inlaid Sheraton design mahogany bedroom suite, £7 17s. 6d.; a similar suite, £10 15s.; 4 ft. to 6 in. inlaid Sheraton design bedroom suite, oval glass door to wardrobe, 12 guineas; 4 ft. inlaid Sheraton design bedroom suite, with Beaconsfield wardrobe, £15 10s.; 5 ft. mahogany bedroom suite, with 2 oval doors to wardrobe, reflex mirrors to dressing table, 19 guineas; 6 ft. inlaid Sheraton design bedroom suite, fitted drawers and trays, 24 guineas; 6 ft. Louis design mahogany bedroom suite, 28 guineas; 6 ft. walnut bedroom suite, 40 guineas; 7 ft. inlaid Sheraton design bedroom suite, with bow front to wardrobe, 60 guineas; 7 ft. satinwood bedroom suite, 10 guineas; several inlaid chests, from 50s.; 6 ft. walnut wardrobe, 15 guineas; 6 ft. 6 in. mahogany wardrobe, fitted drawers and trays, 12 guineas; several iron bedsteads, from 9s.; black and brass bedsteads, 10s.; full size black and brass bedsteads, with wire springs, 21s.; 9 oak bedsteads, 15s.; pair brass twin bedsteads, 5 guineas; pair white and brass twin bedsteads, 3 guineas; inlaid Sheraton bedstead, including wire spring mattress, £3 15s.; full size all brass bedstead, 60s.; pair mahogany twin bedsteads, £2 19s. 6d.; full size all brass square tube Italian bedstead, 8 guineas, and several others up to 18 guineas. The Dining Room furniture comprises fumed oak dining room suite, consisting of large size sideboard, 6 chairs, 2 carving chairs, overmantel, dining table, rug, etc., will accept £13 7s. 6d. the lot; most massive carved oak Elizabethan design dining room set, consisting of sideboard with bevelled plate glass back, oxydized copper fittings, fitted cellarette, 6 massive carved oak chairs, and 2 carving chairs to match, dining table, 16 guineas the set; a similar set, with large sideboard and 2 lounge easy chairs, upholstered in red leather, 25 guineas; magnificent oak dining room suite, £8 15s.; oak suite, in green pegamoid, £3 19s. 6d.; sideboard to match, 4 guineas; overmantel, 50s.; Queen Anne design [illegible] suite, £5 15s.; sideboard to match, £7 15s.; dining table, £3 15s.; handsome Queen Anne design mahogany dining room set, upholstered in red leather, £7 19s. 6d. dining table to match, 7 guineas; Chippendale design set of chairs, ball and claw feet, exquisite design, 12 guineas; oak, walnut and mahogany sideboards, large variety in stock, from £4 10s. to 40 guineas; about 50 odd dining room chairs; 20 dining tables, from 21s.; oak bureau, 21s.; pedestal writing tables; roll top desks, all sizes; revolving bookcases; a most superb Chesterfield, and 2 large club easy chairs to match in green leather, £15 10s.; mahogany secretaire bookcase, enclosed by 2 glass doors, cupboards, under 8 guineas. The Drawing Room furniture comprises very fine drawing room suite, upholstered in art tapestry, £3 10s.; another design suite, £6 10s.; satinwood finish drawing room suite, 7 guineas; an elegant design Louis XIV. gilt drawing room suite, £19 10s.; another set, similar design, 14 guineas.; Chesterfield drawing room suite, with 2 large lounge easy chairs, and 4 solid mahogany chairs, most exquisite design, £12 19s. 6d.; large size double sprung Chesterfield and 2 large easy chairs to match, covered in silk tapestry, 22 guineas; set of Dutch Marquetrie chairs, 14 guineas; handsome design Vernis Martin cabinet, 16 guineas; another, 12 guineas; Buhl cabinet, 11 guineas; another, 14 guineas; table en suite, 8 guineas; Chesterfields, from £3 10s. to 10 guineas; Chippendale design cabinet, £2 19s. 6d.; similar one, £5 15s.; Sheraton design cabinet, £3 15s.; Sheraton design specimen table, 50s.; occasional tables, from 12s. 6d.; occasional chairs, 50 in stock, from 6s. 6d.; 2 white enamel over-mantels, 18s. 6d. and 27s. 6d.; oval gilt table, 10 guineas; pair 9-light candelabra, 6 guineas; 5-light candelabra, 10 guineas; clock in ormulu case, £8 15s.; piano, 8 guineas; an upright piano, iron frame, £12 15s.; ditto, by Carl Strauss, 20 guineas; and several others in stock up to 40 guineas; grand pianos by Steinway, Bechstein, Bluthner, etc. Large stock of carpets, Tapestry, Mirzapore, Turkey, and Oriental carpets and rugs to match, from 18s. 6d.; a large variety of Axminster and Wilton carpets, always in stock, from £2 15s. Hall furniture—Hall stands, from 20s.; hall cupboard, 3 guineas; large quantity of electro-plate, china, cutlery, kitchen utensils, curtains, bed and table linen, etc.

Country buyers should call and inspect these goods. All goods delivered Town or Country free of charge, or can remain stored 12 months free of charge. All goods can be seen where they are now lying for the convenience of sale, any day from 9 till 9, except Saturday, when we close at 7 o'clock, at

The NEWMAN & OXFORD STREET FURNITURE & ANTIQUE DEPOSITORIES (Ltd.),
92, 93, & 94, NEWMAN STREET, OXFORD STREET, W.,

one door from Oxford Street, three minutes from Tottenham Court Road, and Oxford Circus, and adjoining all principal Tubes. Telephone 1307 Central. £10,000 worth of second-hand furniture always on show. Catalogues now ready. Special attention given to Export Orders.

A. N., of Boston, writes: "For three weeks I had large sores from eczema on my face. Antexema took them away, and my face is quite well."

Are you troubled by Eczema or Pimples?

Are you worried day and night by itching, burning eczema? Is your face or neck disfigured by this distressing skin illness? Or have you eczema on your hand, chest, leg, or any other part of your body? If so, let us assure you that you need not suffer in this way. Whether yours is dry, weeping, or scaly eczema does not matter, for in either case Antexema will free you from it. The irritation stops the moment you apply it. Antexema instantly arrests the progress of the trouble, and soon every sign of eczema disappears. Send for Free Trial and prove its merits.

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Not only is Antexema a cure for eczema, pimples, face spots and rashes of all kinds, but it also eradicates every other variety of skin illness of children and adults. Bad legs, scalp troubles, skin irritation, red, rough, or chafed skin, and all other skin ailments are conquered by Antexema. As sure as yours is a skin complaint, just as surely will Antexema take it away. No skin trouble can resist its healing power. Antexema succeeds when doctors, hospitals, and so-called remedies have utterly failed. That's why you should use it.

Do your duty to your skin and start your cure at once. Go to any chemist or stores and get a bottle of Antexema to-day. Boots Cash Chemists, Army and Navy, Civil Service Stores, Harrod's, Selfridge's, Whiteley's, Parkes, Taylor's Drug Stores, and Lewis and Burrows', supply it at 1s. 1½d. and 2s. 9d. per bottle. Also obtainable in India, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, South Africa, and throughout Europe

If you wish to try this genuine British skin-cure beforehand, sit down at once and

SIGN THIS FORM

To the Antexema Company, 83, Castle Road, London, N.W.
Please send me booklet, "Skin Troubles," for which I enclose 3 penny stamps, also Free Trial of complete treatment, consisting of Antexema, Antexema Soap, and Antexema Granules.

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

JOHN BULL. 20/1/1912.

JOHN BULL.

Politics without Party—Criticism without Cant:
Without Fear or Favour, Rancour or Rant.

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IMPORTANT NOTICE.

Letters must be addressed to the Editor or the Publisher, at 93, Long Acre, London, W.C., according to whether they relate to Editorial or Business matters.
All editorial inquiries MUST BE MADE BY LETTER.

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The John Bull League.

MANCHESTER AND DISTRICT BRANCH.

A PUBLIC MEETING
WILL BE HELD AT THE
PUBLIC LIBRARY, SALE,
THURSDAY, JANUARY 25th.
The Chair will be taken at 7.45 p.m. by
COUNCILLOR H. ROSS CLYNE,
supported by a large number of influential gentlemen.
DOORS OPEN 7.15 P.M. ADMISSION FREE.

GLASGOW AND DISTRICT BRANCH.

A GRAND SMOKING CONCERT
WILL BE HELD AT
"THE LANSDOWNE," 183, HOPE ST., GLASGOW,
MONDAY, JANUARY 29th, at 7.30 p.m.
COUNCILLOR COHEN in the Chair.
TICKETS (1s. EACH)
can be obtained from the Convener, Mr. Jno. Pye, 26, Sawmillfield Street, Mr. H. McCone, Branch Secretary, 1,222, Springburn Road, and members of the Committee.

LIVERPOOL AND DISTRICT BRANCH.

A POPULAR WHIST DRIVE
WILL BE HELD AT THE
ASSEMBLY ROOMS, HARDMAN STREET,
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31st.
DOORS OPEN 7.30 P.M. COMMENCE AT 8 O'CLOCK SHARP.
TICKETS (PRICE 1s. 6d., INCLUDING REFRESHMENTS)
may be obtained from the Hon. Secretary, Mr. G. S. Haines, 48, Woodlands Road, or any member of the Committee.

BIRMINGHAM AND DISTRICT BRANCH.

A GRAND SMOKING CONCERT
WILL BE HELD IN THE
WHITE HORSE HOTEL, CONGREVE STREET,
ON FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2nd, at 8 p.m.
ADMISSION FREE.
LADIES SPECIALLY INVITED.

A WHIST DRIVE
WILL BE HELD AT
THE PITMAN RESTAURANT, CORPORATION STREET,
ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14th.
COMMENCE 7.30 P.M. ADMISSION 1/-.

THE WORLD, THE FLESH, AND THE DEVIL.

[The Editor discourses upon passing events and topics of the day.]

"IF YOU SEE IT . . . ."

Alone, in the Press, have we consistently predicted an industrial revolution in the present year. Nothing can stop it—except a breakdown in the law of social evolution. The country is sickening for a bad attack of labour fever. It will soon be delirious.

LABOUR "LEADERS."

And where are these? One of the very first things which the real workers will do will be to shed such "champions" as Keir Hardie and Ramsay Macdonald, and the army of temperance tub-thumpers and lay preachers who are either the willing tools, or the unconscious dupes, of the Party bosses.

NAVAL REFORMS.

We have already congratulated Mr. Churchill upon his experiment with the Business Government principle by the appointment of a commercial manager for the Navy, although we think that, excellent official as Sir Francis Hopwood is, a more practical man might have been selected. Still, it is a step in the right direction. What we now ask Mr. Churchill to do is to see that only British-born subjects are placed in positions of control over our naval machinery.

THE LEAGUE'S EVOLUTION.

Every new movement, if successful, has to pass through three stages—Ridicule, Abuse, Imitation. In two years the John Bull League has experienced them all. The period of ridicule was a short one, for common-sense was the foundation of our platform. Then came the abuse—especially after East Bristol. Only the other day the Chief Liberal Whip honoured us by a sly reference to "political buccaneers who invade constituencies." We did not mind that, but when he proceeded to accuse us of "stealing away the birthright of the resident electors" we thought of the Chief Whip's army of carpet baggers and smiled.

A DISCLAIMER.

As regards our imitators, we desire to say that neither the John Bull League nor its President is in any way associated with the forthcoming "conference on the Party System," under the auspices of the "Independent Political Association"—whatever that may be. We welcome every effort in the cause of Business Government, but it is apt to suffer in the hands of amateur missionaries. All the same, good luck to the conference.

OMINOUS WORDS.

How many people have appreciated the full significance of some of the passages in Mr. Churchill's recent letter to the Thames Ironworks? If they do not mean that war is within the region of practical politics, they mean nothing.

End of the World.

One prophet follows another. After Baxter of London, Lee J. Spangler of Pennsylvania. About two years ago this prophet led out his terrified followers to the hills of Nyack, New York, there to await the end of the world. Having frightened themselves into fits, they returned home without seeing any fireworks and with the world going round as usual. Now Spangler is up and doing again, preaching the end for 1915. This being his last prophecy, he declares it is certain to come off. If so, it will be good news for Ulster, as it will exactly synchronise with the arrival of Home Rule—*unless*, of course, etc.

Bridlington and its Meat.

The longer the Bridlington Council neglect to have an adequate inspection of meat, the greater is the damage to the town. A seaside resort in such a position is not to be encouraged. There is a Nuisance Inspector, but in what way does he interpret his duties? How many seizures have there been of diseased meat? Is he handicapped or assisted in his duties by the local Council? Does he report as a free agent all cases which come under his notice? If he does, do the Council authorise prosecution? If so, how is it nothing is heard of it? It is incredible that out of the 657 visits alleged to have been made to Bridlington slaughter-houses by the Sanitary Inspector between July, 1910, and October, 1911, no meat unfit for human food should have been discovered in the town. Let there be light.

A Coventry Vicar.

We have a sort of sneaking sympathy with the Rev. J. A. Thomas, Vicar of St. Thomas's, Coventry. Our rev. brother says complaint is often made of the way money is raised for Church purposes—by bazaars, raffles, whist drives, dances, pageants, and other pomps and vanities of this wicked world—but it never strikes these Pecksniffian Churchmen that, if they applied their own view of Church finance in practical contributions, there would be no ground for their complaints. Quite so; but Pecksniff never was a man to save other people's souls by dipping his hand into his own pocket.

Free Trade on the Stage.

The Lord Chamberlain's announcement granting to music-halls licences for stage plays has quickly followed what we said in the *affaire* Bourchier. The music-hall and the theatre are at last on the same plane. As long as a music-hall manager puts not fewer than six separate turns on his stage he may play "Hamlet" all the rest of the evening. On the other hand the theatrical manager may enliven his Shakespearian evenings with sparkling vocal gems from the music-halls. On the whole, there is not much fear of the vulgarisation of the theatre, while there is certainly hope for the continued betterment of the music-hall. Whether his salary is big or little, the commonplace vulgarian of the old school is going to feel a draught, and the capable actor, down on his uppers, will get a chance at last. Good luck to him.

"Yip-i-addy I-ay, I-ay."

It is reported by the *Andover Advertiser*, the enlightened organ of public opinion in the constituency represented by our martial friend Captain Faber, that in the interval of a political meeting at Skipton the other evening he "asked leave to sing a song, and chose 'Yip-i-addy i-ay, i-ay' for his theme." We believe it is a lyric of Tennyson, set to music by Gounod. Captain Faber's lovely voice rang out all the distance from the hall to the railway station, and a rumour is current that he intends to repeat the performance in the House of Commons. It will be a welcome change.

Tankerville Junior.

Lord Tankerville says the reason why he has taken his son and heir from Eton and sent him to an American school is that he is "actuated by the desire to have him grow up in an atmosphere where work is not regarded as something to be ashamed of," and that he leaves a school where "a sycophantic crowd of pseudo and would-be aristocrats lick the boots of our young noblemen." The real explanation is probably that Lady Tankerville is an American, and that she objects, not that the unlordly boys of Eton wish to practise stamp-licking on her son's boots, but that they "fag" him and "rag" him and whack him as if he were nobody in particular—as at Eton, certainly, he is. The British public schoolboy is the most unaffected and manly schoolboy in the world. Unlike the Yankee boy, he is trained to think that character rather than cash is the thing that matters.

The Conscientious Convictioner.

A few days ago, Mr. William J. Britton, "a sturdily-built labourer," arrived at Feltham, alleging that he had travelled 300 miles in search of work. Pitying his sore feet, somebody got him a job as a coal heaver, but after heaving one sack he struck and alleged that his conscience wouldn't let him heave any more, as he knew he must be taking the bread out of the mouths of some other fellow's wife and children. The Quarter Sessions will, therefore, presently consider the question of his deserts for neglecting his own. Far be it from us to try to influence the magisterial discretion; but Mr. Britton looks like being kept busy for a little while.

Skinny Evidence at Bristol.

A case before the Bristol magistrates tickles our feet. Briefly, a labourer named Lewis gathered in five rabbits while poaching. The rabbits were found upon him, and he pleaded guilty. Having regard to the evidence, he was an ass. For when the magistrates demanded to see the rabbits, only the skins were produced, and "Superintendent Pope stated he thought it was a pity the rabbits should be wasted, so he had given them to five police officers." It is obvious that if a Bristol poacher pleads not guilty and the magistrates are going to convict on the evidence of skins, the police may easily be tempted to create a run on fur-lined overcoats and coney seal muffs.

A Boom in Pie.

Though in the ordinary course of things we have no objection to Superintendent Pope of Bristol inaugurating a boom in pie, it is undesirable that he should inaugurate it in the execution of his duty. If this is permitted, one of these days somebody will be arrested for poaching prime ox, and when the police are asked to produce the animal Superintendent Pope will bob up in court to say that he is really very sorry, but the force has used it for steak-and-kidney pudding. Besides, if a man is to be sent to gaol for poaching rabbits, what ought a policeman to get for eating them knowing them to have been poached? He ought to get seven days' pain under the tunic at least.

Newark's New Motto.

At a meeting of the Newark Town Council, Alderman Priestley, the Mayor of that loyal and ancient borough, announced that a special committee called for the purpose had recommended as a new motto the historic words of Mayor Smith in 1646 to Lord Bellasyse, "Trust God and Sally," translated into Latin. With all deference to the Mayor, the Committee have made a mistake. What they should have recommended are the historic words said by Robinson to Jones in 1912: "Trust Whisky and Polly," translated into Scotch.

ENOUGH.

This age is in too much of a hurry. It won't give things a proper trial; so much so that a young man of twenty applied to the Willesden magistrates for a separation order from his wife after having been married to her for only two months, to be referred to the court missionary! The wonder is that they did not refer him to the birch administrator. We know people who argue with power and cogency in favour of the three years' system of marriage, but the boy who does not want to wear his wife for more than two months is a novelty—or she is. Good gracious us! He would make a suit of clothes last longer.

WHO ATTENDED THE OBSEQUIES?

If the people of Wood Green are anxious about the fate of a Mr. Denney they had better consult the editor of the *Bowes Park Weekly News*. According to our observant and limpid *confrère*, Mr. Denney lectured in the hall of a local Congregational church the other evening. "He denounced the idle rich," says the report; "the drink traffic and armaments also received the sharp lash of his denunciation. Figures rolled from his lips like a stream, but he had never a good appetite. Two doctors were called in, but he died within 24 hours. Dr. Mellor said that death was caused by alcoholic poisoning." What is puzzling the community is that our editorial friend says nothing about the obsequies. We certainly cannot throw any light on Mr. Denney's fate, but if he is still by any chance above ground it seems to be a case for profuse editorial apologies.

THE SYNDICALIST HORROR.

Just as the name of "Buonaparte" was enough to frighten the children of a hundred years ago into convulsions, and lash into fury the few newspapers we then possessed, so the word "Syndicalist" to-day terrifies our Press, and we have horrible tales told of how an ex-barman graciously allowed the Government to carry on its functions by ukases issued from Tower Hill. At one word this wondrous Syndicalism can stop the entire transport trade of England, close every mine, mill and workshop, and by its linking up with France and Germany paralyse ocean traffic and starve capitalists into submission. *Le Temps* has been investigating Syndicalism, and finds that in its stronghold France, there are only 100,000 syndicalists out of 11,000,000 workmen and the 100,000 are "too soddened with absinthe" to do anything save provide newspaper copy. In England not 1 per cent. of the trades union members have anything save contempt for the "syndicalist" and his panacea of a universal strike—and universal starvation—for all—save the syndicalist leaders.

NORFOLK DUMPLINGS ON THE BENCH.

Though Norfolk is noted for its dumplings, and they are very good in their place, their place is certainly not on the magisterial bench of the county Quarter Sessions. A young man was charged with breaking into a house at Sheringham and stealing certain plated goods of the value of about £40. He had previously burgled another and stolen a lady's handbag. The police recovered most of the articles. The young man pleaded guilty, and on counsel urging that his client committed the offence simply because of a bet, he was let off on his own recognizances. Last week the magistrates had before them a boy just over 16 years of age, the charge being that of breaking into his uncle's house and stealing £6. The police recovered most of the money. The lad pleaded guilty. Counsel stated that the prosecutor, the lad's uncle by marriage, did not wish to press the case, but the result was four months' hard labour. From which it would appear that when Norfolk dumplings do by accident get on the bench they ought to be well boiled.

BLACKPOOL AND ITS DOGS.

Blackpool has now joined Eastbourne and one or two other select watering-places in introducing a bye-law prohibiting under certain pains and penalties the barking of dogs. When it has introduced a bye-law prohibiting the mee-ow-owing of cats and the rowdyism of a large proportion of its present visitors it will have achieved the peace of a Bournemouth Sunday—and, we hope, that town's fate.

PARSONIFIED OPTIMISM—OF SORTS.

After an outburst of pessimism in his "New Year's Letter" to his parishioners, the Rev. Lord Victor Seymour, Vicar of St. Stephen's, South Kensington, says that "no legislation, however exasperating, can ever silence the call on the rich to deal lovingly with the souls and bodies of the poor." Very likely not; but it makes a lot of difference in the response.

THE STEINHEIL MEMOIRS.

It is now upwards of four years since the Steinheil murder case, and most of us have tried to forget it. The whole unsavoury business is, however, to be revived by the publication, on the part of an English publishing house, of Madame Steinheil's personal memoirs, which she has been engaged in writing since she took refuge in this country at the termination of her long trial. The volume is to be "copiously illustrated," though we are not told whether the Paris police are lending the pictures they took on the morning after the crime, enlargements of which we recollect seeing in the office window of a Paris daily journal. The public taste being what it is, the book will doubtless sell—especially having regard to the number of names of distinguished Gallic politicians, which have been lugged into it by its clever—and innocent—authoress.

SUNDAY PROSPECTS AT FALMOUTH.

The Falmouth and Penrhyn Union of Young People's Societies of Christian Endeavour is endeavouring to prevail on the Falmouth Town Council to prohibit bathing from the Pavilion and the use of bathing appliances at Gyllyngvase beach on Sundays. There is a rumour in the town that this Union of Young People's Societies of Christian Endeavour has made the drastic representation because the members do not themselves wash on the first day of the week, and that in order not to encourage the cooking of Sunday meals they subsist for the whole day on hay and thistles.

UNPOPULARITY OF CONSOLS.

Here is a little grumble:—"No better illustration of the want of a Business Government could be had than the frightful obstructions put in the way of honest dealings between holders of British Funds. One receives no certificate of ownership, as in the case of any other stocks, and if the Bank's books were destroyed by fire one would have no proof of ownership at all. Then, in addition, one has to go to the cost of paying 11s. 6d. for a power of attorney, and endless bother as to witnesses. I have had an instance in which the costs in relation to under £10 worth of Consols amounted to about 15s. No wonder the small investor does not buy £10 worth of Consols. The costs would amount to five years' interest! The interest is too mean, having regard to the extreme unattractiveness of this security." Of course, under a Business Government Consols would be as negotiable as bank-notes.

"THE LAY LAWYER."

Interest is increasing daily in connection with our forthcoming new publication. Everybody is waiting for it. Each number will contain £500 worth of law for a penny.

Modern Child-eaters.

We are constantly having brought before us cases of gross hardship inflicted by the reformatory and truant school authorities. The latest instance is of a boy who was committed to a truant school till he was sixteen years of age, but, when fourteen, was placed in the 1st Battalion King's Royal Rifles, at Gosport. After a little service there he came home on three weeks' furlough. On returning to Gosport he was transferred to the 3rd Battalion of the regiment, and in less than three weeks was sent to India, where he is allowed 1s. 4d. a week, out of which he has to purchase blacking, polish for his belt, etc. All these arbitrary steps were taken without the consent of the father, who has now become ill through worrying about the lad, who has written home that India is "killing him." We wonder whether he will be returned to his father when he is sixteen!

The Biter Bit.

Our Paris exchanges inform us of the latest dodge of the Continental sneak-thief; and the shame of it in this case is that he has been trying to make the hard-working, but ever dainty and charming, little *midinette* his victim. His *modus operandi* has been to frequent the streets in the vicinity of the big "departmental stores" of Paris just before the employees' lunch hour, and to drop here and there an envelope bearing an address at, say, Orleans. Inside was an appeal to some "kind friend" to redeem for twenty francs or so at a given address a valuable article of jewellery. The scamp concluded, doubtless, to make quite a nice haul out of Fifine and Odette; but it happened otherwise. For with all her teasing, kittenish ways, your little *modiste* or *couturière* has a very level head upon her pretty shoulders; and so, in this case, the wily gentleman had all his lures most carefully returned to him (we'll hope "unpaid") and with never an enquiry for the jewellery. Well, we know sneaks of this type nearer home, and we've no more use for them than have Fifine and Odette of the *Galèrie de la Bonne Ménagère*.

"No Family."

When some of the bishops who are ranting about big families have a little spare time on their hands, perhaps they will give attention to the bearings of this advertisement from a "daily." "Required, a Christian man and wife (*without family*) as resident caretakers and cleaners of mission buildings in W. London." Should a baby arrive in the course of the employment of this man and wife, the conductors of the mission will probably give them notice to depart the precincts. Therefore a premium is being put on the suppression of babies. Peradventure the Christian mission in West London will explain—or what says the bachelor Bishop?

Parson and Pawnbroker.

Mr. Joseph Withers, the Stratford pawnbroker, died worth £56,000 odd, and left something like £14,000 in bequests to charities and servants, and then the residue of his estate up to £20,000 to the West Ham Hospital; the Rev. Charles Bullock, publisher of religious periodicals, died worth £52,000 odd, and left about £100 to missionary societies, £20 to the staff of *Home Words*, and a copy of his publication, *The Way Home*, to "each adult in his old parish of St. Nicholas," also to "every city missionary, Scripture reader, and open-air preacher in London." Readers are responsible for their own comments. Our silence is profane.

Congratulations to "Mary."

Hearty congratulations to *Mrs. Bull* on her improved "features."

British Women in South America.

There was some correspondence in these columns a short time ago regarding the insults British women were liable to in Buenos Ayres, and a correspondent tells us that the actual reason for this state of things is that most of the women of the "unfortunate" class out there are British, and that until the authorities at home combine with our Consuls in the South American cities to prevent these women being "dumped" out there, the existence of the British women will be intolerable. Of course, it is just another instance of our hypocrisy—the sending of missionaries, drink and "unfortunates" to "civilise" other countries.

With Pleasure.

Lecturing at Wellingborough, the other day, on Disestablishment, the Rev. Richard Richards mentioned that "no line in the Prayer Book could be altered without asking Parliament, which included Mr. Bottomley, for its consent." Our dear brother need not worry. We hereby give him permission to alter any line he likes.

Brother—and Sister-hood.

Amongst what Mark Twain was wont to term the "fancy brands" of religion is the "Brotherhood Church," with whose dogmas we are entirely unacquainted. Indeed, we probably would never have heard of it had it not been that two of the members have lately been sent to prison for declining to give evidence and a third for refusing to register the birth of a child. So now we have learnt that the sect live together in a nest of small houses at Beeston; that their "philosophy" includes the "principle of communism" in all things; and that the members, male and female, get their living by the gentle art of knitting. Their leader has declared that nothing shall induce them to register their babies, whatever the penalty. This is heroism of a suspicious nature. Even the "Abode of Love" babies are duly recorded. But perhaps that communism "in all things" makes it difficult to fill up the Registrar's forms!

Brief Comment.

The *British Weekly* sends us a reprint of an article on "The position and prospects of the Liberal Party" and asks us for a "brief comment." Here it is—piffle.

King (Lloyd) George.

From the *Buenos Ayres Herald*:—"Allan Ross McDougall, the man who struck *King George* in the face, has been sentenced to two months' hard labour."

Oliver Wendell Holmes on Party.

"Liberty is often a heavy burden on a man. It involves that necessity for perpetual choice which is the kind of labour men have always dreaded. In common life we shirk it by forming habits which take the place of self-determination. In politics, party-organisation saves us the pains of much thinking before deciding how to cast our vote. In religious matters there are great multitudes watching us perpetually, each propagandist ready with his bundle of finalities, which having accepted we may be at peace. The more absolute the submission demanded, the stronger the temptation becomes to those who have been long tossed among doubts and conflicts. So it is that in all the quiet bays which indent the shores of the great ocean of thought, at every sinking wharf we see moored the hulks and the razees of enslaved or half-enslaved intelligences. . . . Happiest of souls, if lethargy is bliss, and palsy the chief beatitude!"—("Elsie Venner," Chap. XVIII.)

A GOOD MOVE.

Under the chairmanship of Sir Charles Macara, there has just been formed an Employers' Parliamentary Association. Although avowedly established for the main purpose of combating the National Insurance Act, there is no reason why the scope of the Association should not be considerably and permanently extended in the direction of securing a larger business element in modern legislation. "Business men," says the Committee's manifesto, "have a right to demand that they should be consulted on all legislation which directly affects industry and commerce." How the John Bull League *is* marching on!

A BREAKFAST TABLE PROBLEM.

Last week's Problem was:—

When hay was fetching £5 a ton, a farmer hid himself in a load, and his weight was, of course, added to that of the hay. Before the hay was shipped, the trick was detected, and after another weighing, 7s. 6d. was deducted from the price. Find the weight of the farmer.

Here is the solution:—

It resolves itself into a simple proportion sum. Thus:

£5 represents 2,240 lbs.; what does 7s. 6d. represent?

d.		d.		
1,200	:	90	: : 2,240	: *x*

2,240 lbs. × 90 ÷ 1,200 = 168 lbs.

x, farmer's weight = 12 stone.

We now propound another Problem:—

2. A man invests half his fortune in land, a fifth of it in the Funds, a sixth in Exchequer Bills, and loses the remainder (including a "fiver" he lent to a friend), which is £2,000, in speculation. What was his fortune at first?

Solution 2 next week.

THE WEEK'S "CHESTNUT":—

Iky had come to town in connection with a law suit in which he was plaintiff, but having to catch his train back before the jury had returned their verdict, he arranged to have it wired to him. On opening the message he read, "Justice has triumphed over wrong"—and at once rushed to the telegraph office and wired, "Appeal immediately."

"John Bull's" Biscuits.

["*Taking the Biscuit*" *has become a classic phrase, expressive of a satirical reward or recognition. In this column we present, in all good humour, the token to such of our contemporaries and others as may have distinguished themselves by some unconventional utterance or act.*]

For inserting the following advertisement in the "Age" (Melbourne): "Marriages.—All Contemplating Marriage consult Proprietors Holt's Matrimonial Bureau, 448, Queen Street, Melbourne, opposite OLD CEMETERY, SPECIALLY ERECTED FOR THE PURPOSE,"

THE PROPRIETORS OF HOLT'S MATRIMONIAL BUREAU

TAKE THE BISCUIT.

For stating that: "As a tenor vocalist Mr. J. T. Davenport is too well known to need CONDEMNATION *here,"*

THE NEWS (Eat'ey)

TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating, in reference to the recent collision between H.M.S. "Revenge" and the new super-Dreadnought "Orion," that: "The great cables drew taut just as the stern (of the 'Revenge') fouled the bows of the 'Orion,' the sharp stem piece PENETRATING THE 'ORION'S' PLATING ABOUT FORTY FEET FROM THE STERN ON THE STARBOARD SIDE. . . . *The 'Orion,' it is stated,* WAS NOT DAMAGED AT ALL,"

THE MORNING POST

TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For describing as an item in a menu: "Breakfast, consisting of a cup of TEA (*very hot, the liquid being* HALF MILK *and* HALF WATER),"

THE DAILY MAIL

TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating, in reference to a recent hunting accident, that: "There was no danger signal about, and the brave ANIMAL, *after clearing his fence, landed with his* ARMS *and* ELBOWS *straight on the top strand,"*

THE NORTHAMPTON DAILY ECHO

TAKES THE BISCUIT.

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*For the following advertisement in the "Birmingham Daily Mail" under the heading "Domestic Servants Wanted": "*GENERAL (*good*) *to be* SOLD, CHEAP, KEEP TWO; WELL STOCKED; £20 AS IT STANDS,"

"ADVERTISER" (343, Arthur Street, Small Heath)

TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating that: "Moki, the snake charmer, was attacked at Edinburgh by an African BOA CONSTRICTOR. *The reptile struck at her cheek, but Moki promptly seized it by the* PAW, *and prevented it tearing the flesh with its teeth,"*

THE EXPRESS AND ECHO (Exeter).

TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating, in its account of a tram accident, under the heading "Almost a Disaster," that: "It is stated that the hospital authorities had replied that no one was killed, only one INJURED *and they had sent him home as there was* NOTHING THE MATTER *with him,"*

THE BRIGHOUSE OBSERVER

TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For the following: "CHRISTMAS TREE.—*On Saturday afternoon* DISCOVERED *on the farm of Hyndhope, Ettrick, occupied by Mr. Kirk, farmer.* A BULLOCK HAD CONTRACTED THE DISEASE,"

THE SOUTHERN REPORTER (Selkirk)

TAKES THE BISCUIT.

OUR "BISCUIT" COMPETITION.

For results of our last "Biscuit" Competition, see announcement on page 90.

SHOCKING SECRET CINEMATOGRAPH SHOWS.

OUR SPECIAL COMMISSIONER ON THE TRACK.

[In our last issue we revealed the existence of an extensive system of indecent midnight cinematograph shows, with films imported from Paris. Our Special Commissioner is now busily engaged prosecuting enquiries into the matter, and his report will be published in due course. In the meantime, we give further particulars of the exhibitions, and also a defence of them—with which we in no way identify ourselves.]

Our article last week, under this heading, has caused a great flutter amongst the proprietors of the illicit cinematograph shows of the West-end of London, several of which have hastily closed their doors. We intend, however, to follow the matter up, and have commissioned our special representative to investigate thoroughly the whole subject. We hope to publish his report next week, with full details—so far as they are capable of publication—of the exhibitions he has witnessed.

There can be no doubt that the cinematograph is being abused for the gratification of the tastes of the most depraved section of the community, and that the individuals, mostly foreigners, who run the shows are reaping rich harvests. We understand that in one building alone about sixty people, of both sexes, congregate every night, paying ten shillings per seat, to witness the most disgusting "living pictures." The fact that in most cases such pictures are "faked" makes no difference. How this is done our Special Commissioner will explain; but there can be no question that every night, in the neighbourhood of Leicester Square and Shaftesbury Avenue, the most filthy pictures are being exhibited for the delectation of the utterly abandoned *roués* of Modern Babylon. As, however, the shows are invariably given in private houses, it is difficult, if not impossible, for the police to interfere. The films are brought over personally from Paris by the agents or proprietors of the exhibitions, and we understand that so great is the demand that a certain factory, not far from the Gare du Nord, has been taken and "furnished" for the manufacture of the "pictures." We are glad to think that in London no persons have been found who have sunk low enough to "pose" (to use the mildest term) for the filthy scenes which are depicted on the films. Of course, in view of our exposure, it is a matter of some difficulty for our Special Commissioner to gain access to the shows—but he takes a lot of beating, and as we go to press his report is, "Getting along splendidly." We hope, therefore, to be in a position to publish something of interest next week.

Meanwhile, we print the following somewhat startling suggestion, from the pen of a well-known writer:—

Why Suppress Them?

"I read your article on 'Shocking Secret Cinematograph Shows" with interest, and while I must admit that your motives are good, the fact that there are two sides to the question must not be overlooked. Some will, of course, affirm that there can be only one side to such a matter, and that the subject is a filthy one, however one may look at it. But let me put the question in the light I see it in. First, I must express my regret that the cinematograph has been put to such base uses—but those of us acquainted with the past history of photography knew that it would be put to such uses sooner or later. The beautiful art of stereo-photography was injured in a like manner. Years ago the stereoscope and stereoscopic photographs were to be found in every respectable home. Later on, our Continental friends sent us stereoscopic pictures of a questionable character, and these in time killed the stereoscope, or, at any rate, drove it from the homes of respectable people, and, in spite of the banishment of the more or less filthy pictures, the stereoscope has never again become popular. Could the cinematograph be used in secret places only, and not in public, the invention would be killed in the same way. Happily, however, the cinematograph has become an institution and is viewed in public, and there can be no better censors than the general public, who would refuse to go if anything 'risky' or demoralising were shown.

"As regards the exhibition of questionable films in secret, and before a small audience who are ready and willing to pay to see them, I can see no objection. Pure-minded people and children are, for obvious reasons, kept out of the secret places. The people who like the filthy shows and can afford their half-guineas or guineas are people who are far beyond redemption, and they have every right to spend their money as they please. It is not as though the questionable pictures were sowing seeds of evil; the evil is already there, and if the patrons cannot get the illicit pleasures they are in search of in one place they will go to another where they can. The fact that such secret shows are held at or about midnight is a proof that they are intended for those 'night birds' who want them and not as an inducement to respectable citizens, who at midnight are at home with their families. Again, if dirty-minded *roués* and their bad companions are shut up in some picture show the police ought to feel thankful. It is better that such birds of a feather should be flocked together in an expensive place of amusement than that they should be allowed to roam and infest our streets and saloon bars—places which are very much cheaper than a secret picture show—where they can so easily contaminate the minds of young and perhaps pure-minded people. In a secret show, where one visitor is steeped as deeply in immorality and other vices as any of the other visitors, surely no further harm can be done.

London More Immoral than Paris.

"Two years' residence in Paris has proved to me that London is far more immoral than the so-called Gay City, and why? Simply because we in London pretend to be so very good and do our level best to keep vice and questionable shows secret, and do not parade things as they do in Paris. It is this secrecy that attracts the thoughts of some people, for everybody likes a secret. If things were more open there would be less evil.

"Therefore, I say, let the aged *roués* and others have what amusements they like and can pay for. I would even suggest that the price of admission to secret picture shows be increased to five guineas. The net would then catch bigger fools and possibly more evil-minded and moneyed people than it does to-day. Such people are not worth the thought and care of pure-minded people, and it must be remembered that all money is of the same value. My only regret is that such places are run by aliens and that they pocket the money; I would rather an English proprietor owned the shows."

A WORD FOR POOR OLD CARPENTER.

A TRIBUTE FROM A VICTIM.

We have received the following interesting letter from a Fulham reader:—

Some six or seven years ago, having saved £200 while abroad, I deposited it in the Charing Cross Bank, thinking that the somewhat high rate of interest could easily be paid out of the high percentages charged for moneylending, which I judged to be the "Bank's" principal business.

Now in January, 1909, I took a job as motor mechanic with Carpenter's Non-Puncturable Tyre Company at Alperton, and was somewhat interested to learn subsequently that the Carpenter who was financing this experimental business was connected with the Charing Cross Bank. Well, I stayed with the concern eighteen months and did my little best to make it a success, but although I knew the idea was right enough, I saw it would end in failure, as there were too many in the place with fat jobs, and absolutely nobody with the necessary technical knowledge to carry on experiments in the right direction.

Mr. Carpenter I saw fairly often, and drove him on a lot of trial runs on the new tyres, and he was serious enough and sure of everything eventually panning out all right, but he was hoodwinked all along the line, and I formed the opinion of him that I had never come across such a confiding and trusting old fool for a "business" man in all my life.

The tragedy of it for me was that—with all my inner knowledge of the conduct of this business, and that he had lost £20,000 in it—I hadn't the slightest idea that *he* was the Charing Cross Bank, but thought, maybe, he was one of the directors, and that this was a private venture of his own; so I left my money in, although it was on twelve months' deposit, renewed yearly, and, of course, have lost the lot. I won't tell you any harrowing tale, for although I lost every penny I had in the world, still I am thankful to say I am fairly young, but I wanted to write and endorse your opinion of Carpenter expressed in JOHN BULL of 30th ult., and to add that, however hardly I've been hit, I still feel some sympathy for a man who, I'm convinced, was not half the villain he was painted.

TUBES AND TEMPERS.

SOME OF THE TRIALS OF "UNDERGROUND" PASSENGERS.

Considerable sympathy will be felt by the great patient public towards Mr. Frederick Henry Clark, fined the heavy sum of £10 3s. for using threatening and abusive language and assaulting a constable in the employ of the London Electric Railway. It appears that he had "rushed up the staircase of Charing Cross Tube Station, and, producing a ticket at the booking office, demanded the return of his money. He said there were no trains running at the time. The booking clerk handed him the money for the ticket, but prisoner used very bad language. P.C. Hall then came up, and prisoner went away, but returned shortly afterwards and used very abusive language. After a time he was again induce to go away, but as he was leaving the premises he turned round and struck the officer on the chest, at the same time calling him a scoundrel."

Without attempting a defence of the blow, it is easy to sympathise with Mr. Clark in his exasperation. Though it is announced that a lift descends in connection with every train, it is quite customary for passengers, after waiting for some time in one, and walking for two or three minutes down apparently interminable tunnels, to find, on at last reaching the platform, that a train has just gone, and that none will stop for five or ten minutes. When arrived at the other end, there is another long walk to the lift, another exasperating wait, and then a considerable distance to be traversed between the tube station and the railway terminus to which it is supposed to afford access. Therefore, unless for comparatively long distances, it is much quicker to walk.

The gross overcrowding of the lifts at certain hours of the morning and evening, when a mass of humanity is packed into them to the considerable danger of life and limb—to say nothing of the discomfort—is another scandal, it often happening that the passengers are jammed against the arm of the attendant having charge, and thus prevent his exercising free control of the machinery. Although many stations are fitted with four lifts, it is very seldom that they are all worked, or, if in operation, that the loading and discharging of passengers is done in an expeditious manner.

"BRAININE" FOR NERVES AND WORRY
All Chemists. 1/1½.

SWEEP—SWEEP!

A RACING REMINISCENCE RECALLED—AN INTERESTING HUMAN DOCUMENT.

[In the chapter of "Bottomley's Book" devoted to "Racing Experiences" occurs a humorous story, and the letter which we print below it comes from the sooty pen of the hero of it.]

THE STORY.

I had been beaten in the big race of the day by a "short head" with Le Blizon. I was alone in the carriage when a rough-looking fellow jumped in. Taking off his coat, he proceeded, in his shirt sleeves, to study his bets of the day—soliloquising in language which made the air of the compartment blue. "Had a bad day, old man?" I ventured to enquire. "A bad day—just think I 'ave. It 'ud 'ave bin orl right if that blooming *Le Blisgon* 'ad won. 'Ad a blooming plunge on 'im—*not 'out' a blooming yard.* I'D JUST LIKE TO 'AVE HIS BLOOMING OWNER 'ERE NOW! I guess 'e'd be left in this 'ere blooming tunnel." I continued to pour out all the sympathy of which my nature was capable, till at length, to my relief, we reached a stopping place. "Here," thought I, "is my chance to get rid of him," and so I produced a sovereign and suggested that my companion should run and get a bottle of whisky and some soda-water—being convinced that I should see no more of him. But just as we were moving out of the station up he came, laden with bottle and glasses and wreathed in smiles. Handing me the full change, he proceeded to uncork and pour out the drink, and with many more imprecations upon "LE BLISGON," and its owner, we whiled away the time till we reached Croydon. "I git out 'ere, guv'nor," he observed. "I'm a sweep if yer want to know—there's my card—they all knows me about 'ere," and out he jumped. Appreciating the amenities of the situation, I leant out of the window and remarked, "You may as well have mine—*I'm the owner of* 'LE BLISGON.'" The effect was comical. Looking first at the card and then at me, the poor chap for the moment was dumb, and then, as I withdrew my head, I heard, "Lor bli'-me, guv'nor, you're a toff!"

Well, the sweep has turned up, "after many years." His name is Jack Harris; at his wish we withhold his address. Here is a letter recently received by Mr. Bottomley:—

SIR,—I trust you will pardon my writing you. I am the Sweep in No. 27 of your book, the tunnel experience you so well describe. Twelve months ago I had an accident. I now have lost everything. I want to make a fresh start in chimney sweeping and own a business at Hove, Brighton, where there is a good chance for a man like me. I do not want a gift of money, but enough to start.

We cannot resist this appeal from our old friend, and have pleasure in heading the list with £1. Will any reader also give him a helping hand?

"SOUTH SHIELDS STATUES."

COUNCILLOR JOHNSTON'S REPLY.

Councillor Johnston writes, in reference to our criticism of certain observations made at the South Shields Town Council:—"You say: 'We have the typical Stiggins in the complaint of Councillor Johnston that "the drapery put on only accentuates the coarseness of these figures and concentrates attention on those parts not intended to be seen"—and remind us of Mark Twain's speech "The Ladies: Look, Sir, at Cleopatra; look at . . . look at Mother Eve—well, you need not look at *her* unless you want to." *Personally we confess we don't.*' Why not? Was *she* not, like the S.S. statues, made to be looked at? Are you, too, a Stiggins?

"But Mark Twain anticipated my own words, only in a neater way. He said in one of his sketches: 'The statue that advertises its modesty with a fig-leaf really brings its modesty under suspicion.' Was *he* a Stiggins?"

The only reason why we have no desire to "look at" Mother Eve is that she is usually depicted as such a very unattractive lady. As regards the rest of Mr. Johnston's letter, we are quite of the opinion of Mark Twain. Down with the fig-leaf!

HOW TO FIGHT GERMANY.

A SCHEME TO SAVE THE TERRITORIALS AND ESTABLISH A REGULAR ARMY.

Hitherto we have adopted full editorial responsibility for the views of our contributor—a man of great practical knowledge in military matters, and who has made a special study of Army questions. Now, however, that he proceeds to expound a definite scheme of Home Defence, and not ourselves being military experts, we must leave the responsibility of the plan entirely with him, simply observing that we shall welcome suggestions and criticisms from our readers. Here, then, is his idea :—

How It Can be Done.

The framework of the existing Territorial Force is all that can be desired; but the control of the Force during time of peace must pass entirely out of the hands of the War Office. They have proved themselves quite incompetent to deal with citizen soldiers.

(1) Every male between the ages of 18 and 29 domiciled in the United Kingdom should be *liable* to military training.

(2) The authority for providing the register of all persons *liable* to military training, for enforcing that *liability*, and for general administration of the Force, should be the city, town, or borough council.

(3) The duties of these bodies should be to ascertain the military resources of their respective districts, and make provision for the training and equipment of such number of men as Parliament may order them to enlist.

(4) Liability for training should commence at the age of eighteen years, and should be continued until the twenty-ninth year.

(5) The youth, during his eighteenth year, should undergo thirty days' training, such training to be carried out adjacent to his own home, and to consist of the elementary duties of a soldier.

(6) In the second year he should have five months' training—under canvas part of the time, the remainder in bivouac. During these five months he should be paid. The five months should be from May to September.

(7) In the third year the youth should make twenty attendances at evening drill, for which he would not receive any pay, and also spend thirty days under canvas, for which he would receive pay.

(8) After this training he would have fitted himself for National Defence, and he would be presented with a parchment certificate of citizenship, which would entitle him to a vote for all local and parliamentary elections.

(9) From his twenty-first year to his twenty-ninth year he should perform four musketry drills annually, and fire each year twenty rounds on the range. These drills could be carried out at the town he lived in.

(10) At the age of thirty his period of what may be termed "active service" would cease. That is to say, during time of peace he would not be called upon for any more drill. He would then pass into what would be known as the "Veteran Citizen Reserve," and would only be called upon in case of actual invasion.

Central Administrative Body.

Of course there must be a controlling body. This might be formed as follows :—

(11) Parliament should decide upon the actual force required.

(12) The Central Body should consist of twelve members; six of whom should be *retired* military men.

(13) Boroughs should submit names to the executive Government, which would finally decide upon the members.

Duties of Central Body.

(14) To take orders from Secretary of State for War. For example, Parliament, having decided upon the number of men required—after consulting with the senior member of the Army Council, of course—would issue, through him, an order for raising them, and he in turn would convey it to the Central Body. The Central Body would then pass the order along to all the different units throughout the United Kingdom.

(15) All rules and regulations for the Citizen Force should be framed by the Central Body.

(16) The Citizen Force should, in time of peace, be amenable to civil law only: and for time of war a special code should be framed.

(17) The Citizen Force should be for National Home Defence only.

(18) During time of war volunteers from its ranks could be called for, to augment, and fill the place of casualities in, the Regular Army.

(19) In no circumstances should this Force be called upon to act against the civil population in case of trade disputes.

Officers.

(20) Officers of the existing Territorial Force should be allowed to retain their commissions; but after the expiration of the first three years of the new Act no person should be eligible for a new commission who had not completed his full three years' course of training in the ranks.

(21) All vacancies for commissions to be open to annual competition. Examination marks in different military subjects, plus general character and physical qualifications, to be the only test for the coveted positions.

Pay and Rations.

(22) The rate of pay for a private soldier when under canvas, or in bivouac, should be 6s. a day, corporal, 7s., and sergeant, 8s. Officers in proportion.

(23) Rations for all ranks as in the Regular Army.

Compulsion and Exemption.

(24) In case of a borough being unable to raise its proper proportion of men by voluntary means, it should have the power to raise that number by ballot. If, however, the above high rate of pay is given there need be no fear of compulsion. Men will be falling over each other in their eagerness to enlist.

(25) The man who claims he has a conscientious objection to bear arms—should it ever be compulsory—should be given a job in the ambulance corps.

Let us say the number of men required is 500,000, and that it is desirable that the whole of this number shall go through their training forthwith. A huge undertaking! The wages bill alone would amount to close upon £30,000,000.

The establishment of the present Territorial Force is 350,000. It is true that it is never up to establishment, but no matter. With that number of men our military advisers testify that all is well—provided they had their six months' training at once, instead of *after* the outbreak of war. Well, to this establishment I propose to add 150,000, and at the same time to cut down the Regular Standing Army by 50,000 men; so that "what we lose on the swings we shall make up on the roundabouts."

And in getting rid of these men from the Regular Army care should be taken to get rid of the "wasters"—men who are constantly in and out of military prisons.

Patriotism amongst the working classes is not what it once was. Let us revive that spirit. In time of war double the pay of all the soldiers—Regular and Citizen. After all, patriotism is a question of bread and butter. "Who shall pay," do you ask? Why, the Nation we are fighting. "Suppose we don't win?" you say. No fear of that with our troops, on double pay, against a conscript force.

COLLECTING BY CLOCKWORK.

THE WHOLE ART OF BEGGING.

By Richard Morton.

The Poor Man was in quest of information. He had been suddenly startled by the appearance of some strange clocks on certain corners of the streets and understood them not. When he wanted to know the time, and found it was forty thousand pounds past twelve, he concluded there was something going on that merited enquiry.

So he went to Mr. Knowall and put the case before him. That gentleman, the repository of all knowledge, laughed consumedly. "Why," he said, "the clocks you have seen are the Money Clocks."

"Ah," said the Poor Man, "I thought they were not time clocks. They quite confused me."

"But they are time clocks as well," said Knowall. "They measure time and money. They show how to collect a hundred thousand pounds in twelve days, and they check off the days and the thousands. It's the latest Yankee dodge."

"I thought it was not British. What is the money being collected for, and how is it being collected?"

"Regarding 'how,' they collect it by asking for it. Bands of men are running after rich people and putting the question straight, 'Will you subscribe?'"

"But that is begging."

"Oh, what a rude word to use! It is not really begging, you know; it is collecting, gathering, collaring, grabbing, subscribing, or anything else descriptive of hauling in the pieces. It is asking for money, and getting it."

"And what is the object—charity?"

"They call it an investment in young men. It seems that a lot of good people have built a palace for good young men to play in, and they find themselves considerably in debt. So once more they are going over the pockets of their friends, and this time they are employing a Yankee hustler, so as to do the job thoroughly. It's enterprise, wonderful enterprise.

"But let me understand about this palace for good young men. Why do they indulge in palaces if they cannot pay for them?"

"They are poor in worldly goods, but they are rich in faith—that somebody will be bled to pay for their luxuries."

The Poor Man hummed and hawed a little. "It seems to me," he said, presently, "that these good young men would be showing a more independent spirit if they put up a canvas tent and paid for it themselves."

"Perhaps the young men feel like that, but the organisers don't. They decided on a palace, and a palace it is. So, beat the big drum and send round the hat!"

"Well," said the Poor Man, "whatever you say, I still call it begging."

"But it is for a good object. And all done on such a grand scale. One hundred thousand pounds in twelve days! Think of it."

"I am thinking of it," sighed the Poor Man. "And, look here. I know of another good object. I am out of work. I have a wife and children. They want food and things like that. Ten pounds would save my little home, and I must get it somehow in a week. If I go round town asking people for money to make up my ten pounds in seven days, do you think I should get it?"

"I'm sure," said Mr. Knowall, "that you would stand no earthly chance of getting your ten pounds. But you would very probably get your seven days."

"NOBLESSE OBLIGE."

MARQUESS OF HUNTLY'S DISCLAIMER.

In our issue of January 6th we directed attention to the case of Joseph Moss, a vanman who was seriously injured outside Peterborough by a pair of runaway horses which were said to belong to the Marquess of Huntly, and we commented upon his Lordship's refusal to give compensation. We have since received a letter from his solicitors, in which they deny that either Lord or Lady Huntly owned the runaway horses, whilst as regards the groom who was driving at the time, they say that he was not doing so "in the course of his employment."

SCURVY TREATMENT OF A SOLDIER.

HOW THE WAR OFFICE POPULARISES THE ARMY.

A case that has been brought to our notice illustrates anew the scurvy way in which soldiers are often treated. A lad named Sills joined the 2nd Bedfordshire and, in course of time, he was sent to Gibraltar and thence to Bermuda. Whilst serving at the latter place he suffered from sunstroke, which made him "medically unfit." He was consequently invalided and sent home. He remained at Netley until the middle of January, and then was discharged from the hospital and the Army. His relatives being unable to receive him, and his mental condition requiring attention, he was sent to the Middlesex Asylum. On leaving the Army there remained due to him the sum of £6 16s. 7d., but on his relatives applying for this amount they were informed that the Board of Guardians, to whom he was chargeable, had a legal claim against the sum on account of his maintenance in the Asylum, so long as it might last. In reply to a further application his relatives were told that the sum of £4 10s. 3d. had been paid out of the man's money to the Guardians of the Edmonton Union in settlement of their claim in respect to the cost of maintenance, and in reply to the third application they were told that the balance of £2 6s. 4d. had also been handed over to the Guardians of the Edmonton Union in part payment of the cost of maintenance, so that when Sills was discharged from the Asylum cured, a day or two ago, he had nothing to his name but what he stood up in. His mother went to see the authorities at the War Office, and was told that the payment to the Guardians had been made "in accordance with the law." But, apart from the legal aspect of the matter, it seems to us that Sills has been very scurvily treated. We do not suppose there is any particular fund from which help could be obtained for cases of this kind, though it seems to us there might well be. But surely a man stricken as Sills was might be given the few pounds due to him on his discharge. What happens to him afterwards is no business of the Army authorities. To sell his kit and to retain moneys due to him for the purpose of handing them over to a Board ofGuardians to pay for an illness brought on whilst in the service of the State, and to throw him out into the world, absolutely penniless, upon his recovering from his illness, seems to us very mean, to say the least of it, and not calculated to popularise the Army.

THE STATE INSURANCE SCHEME.

SOME INTERESTING PRACTICAL EXPERIENCES.

A Nottingham correspondent says:—

In support of the interesting and very able article which appeared in a recent issue of John Bull on the above subject the following personal experience may be useful—that is, if support be required.

For twenty-one years I have been honorary treasurer to a voluntary Sick and Annual Society, formed amongst my fellow workmen for their mutual benefit. The weekly subscription is 2d., and the benefits for sickness are 6s. per week for first 13 weeks, 3s. per week for the second 13 weeks, with £3 to nearest relative in case of death, besides allowances from the Benevolent Fund in case of extreme deprivation. In spite of the smallness of the subscription and the liberality of the benefits, the annual return to each member for the whole period named has never been below 4s. 4d. The Society is still in existence, and, in a modest way, flourishing, the last annual statement of account showing:—

Dividend to 148 members at 5s. 9d.	£42	11	0
Balance carried forward	11	13	0
Benevolent Fund	11	0	9
Funeral Fund	28	8	0

In May of the year 1897 our employers decided to form a new Sick and Annual Club, to which, as a condition of employment, every workman had to subscribe 3d. per week. The benefits were 7s. 6d. per week for first 13 weeks, 3s. 9d. per week for second 13 weeks, £5 to nearest relative in case of death. I was again honorary treasurer to this Society, and, therefore, my statement is first hand. There was no cash returned to members at the end of the first twelve months, and in just under eighteen months from its inception this compulsory Society was wound up through want of funds. In my humble opinion the same fate awaits the State Insurance Scheme if, as I hope will not be the case, it ever comes into operation.

THE COAL CRISIS.

A SOLEMN WARNING TO THE MINERS.

By T. Good.

[Mr. Good discusses the cause of the trouble—which he attributes to the Miners' Eight Hours Act—and utters a grave warning to the men.]

The danger of a national coal strike is much greater than most people imagine, and, if strike there be, it will not be over any clear-cut issue between employers and workmen, but over a number of grievances, some created and others aggravated by an Act of Parliament. The minimum wage demand is a mere cloak to cover the results of blundering legislation. In the Eight Hours Act we have an attempt to impose a uniform law upon an industry in which the natural conditions vary widely in district and district, and even in mine and mine. As results of this legislative folly we have earnings diminished, dangers increased, working shifts made inconvenient, meal times curtailed, week-end leisure cut down, domestic and social customs upset, and relations between men and masters, and even between men and leaders, embittered.

The miners were led to believe that the Eight Hours Act would be a great boon to them. Now that it is proving a bane there is keen disappointment and a ready disposition to strike. The theory entertained by the men was that reduced hours would mean not only increased leisure, but also more wages—that restricted output would mean higher prices, and higher prices higher wages. The question of foreign competition in coal was ignored. An increase in the number of shifts per week was not anticipated. The introduction of more night work was never dreamt of by the men. Now, however, it is found that there is a price beyond which even coal cannot go—particularly coal for export, in which Wales and the North of England are so largely interested—and the lessened earning time hits the men in two ways. First, their ordinary earnings are less on account of their individual output being less. The *per capita* output, spread over all the mine workers, has fallen by 5 or 6 per cent. under the new law, but as less than half the men are actual coal-getters, it follows that the hewers' wages have declined by something like 12 per cent. Secondly, as the owners find working-costs increased in many districts where the men have refused to work on the multiple shift, the winding time being reduced and the machinery and horses being longer idle on ordinary days than formerly, they cannot afford to be so generous as hitherto in the matter of allowances for "dead" work. This aggravates the "abnormal places" difficulty. Thus the miners earn less on their ordinary work and also less on their extraordinary work. But reduced wages, an outcome of reduced hours, was the last thing the miners expected. Hence the disappointment and bad temper.

How the Act Works.

Coupled with poorer wages, the men have worse shifts. The new "multiple shift," which Cabinet Ministers said could be easily introduced and would be a great advantage, provoked a series of strikes in the North at the beginning. The trouble remains. After giving the new system a trial, the men declare they will not have it, and a strike has been voted for, so there is danger of a rupture over this question, apart from the minimum wage. Where the pits were formerly worked with two short shifts of men and a longer but single shift of boys, giving them regular hours of sleep, meals, and recreation, the men are now on three or four shifts, extending to nearly the full 24 hours daily—there not being room in the "stalls" for them to work all together under the restricted hours—and the boys are on a double shift system, which destroys regularity. In households where three or four sons, or lodgers, as well as father, are employed at the pits, on different shifts, the workers are going out and coming in at almost all hours of the day and night; the women are scarcely ever done preparing meals and changes of clothing; the houses are always upset; evening leisure is cut down; the boys cannot attend classes and the men have to hold their club meetings on Sundays. Domestic and social customs are completely disorganised—by Labour legislation!

In Wales and some other districts the trouble takes a somewhat different form. The men there successfully resisted the proposed multiple shift, but the continuance of the single shift under the new restriction renders it necessary for the miners to work more shifts per week than formerly. Roughly, they have to work six full, legal shifts instead of two or three long, and one or two short shifts. This spoils their Saturdays and Mondays—while the "abnormal place" difficulty is aggravated in two ways—the men, under the restricted hours, are more inclined than formerly to have poor places declared bad ones, in order to get the special allowances, while, on the other hand, the owners are not in such a good position to pay extras.

Another result of the Eight Hours Act is that repair work is scamped, for there is not time to do it properly in eight hours on a Sunday night, and the hewers go to work on Monday in places not reasonably safe or clear. Again, propping and other precautions are to some extent neglected in the rush to "make wages" in the lessened hours. In Parliament the Eight Hours Bill was recommended on the ground that it would promote safety; but it is a remarkable, though not surprising, fact that since we have had to submit to this new law we have killed our miners at the rate of six per working day, against four a day previously. To put the matter in a nutshell, it may be said that in consequence of this new law, enacted professedly in the interests of the miners, these men find their pay, their leisure and their safety alike interfered with. These are the real grievances behind the wage movement—grievances created by Act of Parliament. This Act, promoted by the men's own leaders, was a blunder and is a failure. Now, to cover up the blunder and hide the failure, and with a view to rendering the inconveniences of the men tolerable, we have an agitation for higher wages—not for an ordinary, natural rise of wages, but for a guaranteed wage almost regardless of work performed.

A Warning.

In conclusion, let me venture to offer the miners a word of warning. If they succeed in destroying the present piece-work system of coal getting and in enforcing the payment of a comparatively high, fixed daily wage, the owners will be compelled to introduce a new system of supervision. A guaranteed minimum wage must carry with it a corresponding output. This will mean, first, that the elderly and delicate men will be weeded out. Only the physically efficient will be employed. In the next place, there will have to be the strictest of strict supervision in all the workings. Every stall and every man will be watched. Now, in a workshop a foreman may supervise a hundred workmen. But in a coal mine conditions are vastly different. Here it would take a foreman all his time to supervise half-a-dozen colliers and their trammers and putters. A mine employing a thousand men, all on a time wage, would need about 100 foremen. Obviously, the owners cannot afford this, on top of the other increased costs. Yet the problem of supervision will have to be solved if the minimum wage is enforced. And we will tell the miners how it will be solved. The "butty" system will be introduced in every pit in the country!

For the information of those who are not familiar with the coal trade, I may explain that a "butty" is a kind of contractor. In the few cases where this system has been introduced it has proved most repugnant to the men. Under a minimum wage scheme the "butty" system will become universal, for by no other method can the owners be assured of a day's labour for a day's wage. The "butties" will be carefully selected—in vulgar language the men selected for "buttying" will be those considered capable of bullying. A "butty" will be given charge of a few stalls. He will be paid by results—so much per ton of coal got. He will employ his own colliers at a fixed daily wage, the minimum wage will also be the maximum, and the "butty" will see to it that the collier does a maximum day's work for the minimum wage. On the average, the working collier will be worse off—he will do more work for less money, the "butty" pocketing the balance, or plus money. All the bullying and degradation of dock-side "lumping" will be introduced into our mining industry. By the present movement for a minimum wage, involving the abolition of the individual piece-work system, our miners stand to lose far more than they have lost by the equally mistaken Eight Hours' movement. If there is a free and independent workman in the country it is the miner. Give him the minimum wage and you will make a slave of him.

"SLAVES OF THE ROAD."

SOME COMMENTS BY COMMERCIALS.

[Below we give extracts from a few of the letters received from Commercial Travellers, criticising and commenting upon the article, by "A Victim," published last week.]

A "Surrey Commercial" writes:—

"Victim" says we are "snobbish"; well, that is hardly the name for it. "On the road," JOHN, 6d. will not recognise 5½d., and has only a nodding acquaintance with 5½d. How it has come about I do not know, but it is there. In some commercial rooms a young traveller would be absolutely frozen out, though I am afraid it is the empty tin-can which makes the most noise. I have been "on the road" 23 years, and find "Victim" right so far, but when he challenges *every* firm he gets "off the road." I have been on "com." only for about 15 years, and I do not wish to be paid in any other way. I have never struck the men he has found. No doubt there is a lot of discontent, but it is generally due to the carpenter getting the bricklayer's job. I should say, from my own experience, that "Victim" has been out looking for trouble.

"Nemo"—the name chosen to hide the identity of a very well-known Manchester traveller—while agreeing generally with our contributor, makes some very pertinent remarks:—

I have had 20 years' experience of this class of trading, and I will say here and now there is not a class of men, professional or otherwise, who are more *robbed* by the firms they represent, either when on commission with several agencies or with part expenses. Limited companies are the worst offenders, as in these cases you are shovelled about from one departmental manager to another, and so you never know where you are. Of course it is practically our own fault, and merchants laugh at us behind our backs, because they know they have the whip-hand in a great many cases, as by the time the traveller finds them out they have captured the poor devil's connection, which in most cases was what they were out for from the very first day of his engagement.

I had a slight experience of this sort some time ago, but I notified the customers and procured employment in another rival house; although the principals came up from London and took their new agent round they found that all the orders still came home here, and so they have given up the attempt to rob me of the profits on commission due to me. But the tricks are too numerous to go into in any one letter.

As I can command a trade of £50,000 sterling a year I should know a bit, but I get robbed most infernally—there was an attempt only this month to do me out of £16 net for goods sold and delivered.

"A Knight of the Road" (London) thinks that the cause of the commercials' ill-repute in the public eye and unfair treatment on the part of employers is to be found in the importation of juniors, who regard their calling principally as a means of securing a "good time":—

The real reason of all the trouble is because men going on the road will not refuse to travel for any house that will not give salary, expenses and "com." If men are fools and will work for nothing, can you wonder at firms letting them do so? Another reason is that there are so many boys now on the road, who will accept a small "com." and travelling expenses, to have what they call a "good time." If these young gentlemen would take their talents to another market we, the genuine commercial travellers, would be a lot better off.

"Victim" is quite right; we should combine at once, but not if we are going to include in our ranks all the failures and duffers that are at present on the road. Go into any commercial room and listen to a lot of young fools gassing about the girls they have ruined or helped to ruin, the tall stories, etc., etc. This is the class of "man" that brings ill repute on us all.

Now, "Victim" has never been a commercial traveller yet—by his own showing, he has been a commission agent. A commercial traveller is one who receives salary, expenses and "com." I have represented three houses in 14 years—one for 9 years, the next for 2, and the present firm 3, having left to better myself each time; but I have, of course, had a proper stamped contract each time; and if every gentleman on the road insisted upon this, firms would only employ men with it, and the "wasters" would drop out, much to our benefit.

Look at the way some men dress. Instead of the correct silk hat and frock coat, or neat suit and "bowler," they adorn themselves in a fancy cap and knickers, etc. Then they wonder they do not "rise"!

HUMAN DOCUMENT.—CLXXVII.

[In this column, every week, we publish particulars of some human derelict whose case, after full investigation, we are able to recommend to the charity of our readers. We are happy to say that in this way we have already been the means of bringing comfort into many a wretched home. All amounts subscribed are duly acknowledged, and no deduction of any kind is made by us.]

A POOR FLOWER-SELLER.

An officer at Dover writes:—"I would draw your attention to a case which both my wife and I have thoroughly investigated and know to be perfectly genuine. A woman resident in Folkestone, who has many children and a drunken husband, was compelled to leave him after he had attempted to strangle one of the children. The poor woman is in dire poverty, owing to having to go to hospital through attending to herself in a recent confinement, tumours breaking out on her back and chest. She was discharged from the hospital and found in an almost destitute condition. My wife, who was born and lived in Folkestone, knows her as an honest and thoroughly deserving woman. She lives in a tiny room, and for fear of contamination locks her children up during the day. Can anything be more deplorable than to know that children have to be locked up, and their mother compelled to return home to them at night with not so much even as a crust of bread? She is a flower-seller by trade, but owing to the prohibitive cost of flowers now she is unable to even purchase the wherewithal to make an honest penny."

We have received the following amounts, which we have duly forwarded to the subjects of the "Human Documents":—

CLXXI.—"Rimpha," 5s.

CLXXIV.—K. and G., 1s.

CLXXV.—"Wilhelmina Muggins," 2s. 6d.; P. H., 2s. 6d.; M. E. F., 2s. 6d.; K. and G., 1s.; G. P., 20s.; A. B., 5s.

CLXXVI.—"Chum," 2s.; "Nugget," 2s. 6d.; "Fag," 5s.; A. B. C., 1s.; "Elstow," 1s.; "Lyme Regis," 5s.; L. C. B., 2s.; "Anonymous," 1s.; A. B., 5s.; "Regular Reader," 2s. 6d.

"JOHN BULL" COLLECTING BOXES.

FOR THE BENEFIT OF OUR "HUMAN DOCUMENT" FUND.

In response to our appeal, many shopkeepers and tradesmen—including a considerable number of licensed victuallers—have generously consented to exhibit collecting boxes for our "Human Document" Fund. The following are the places in the London W. District where such boxes will be found, and we shall be deeply grateful if any of our readers in the neighbourhood will drop in and leave a mite for the benefit of the derelicts for whom we plead. The boxes will be cleared at regular intervals, and their contents applied to the relief of any particular case selected by the collector. Failing such direction, the money will be distributed in our discretion. Further lists will appear from time to time:—

Mr. D. C. Bardrick, Churchill Arms, Church Street, Kensington; Mrs. Ann Bennett, Coach and Horses, Bruton Street; Mr. G. E. Berry, 1a, Adam Street, Portman Square; Mr. C. Besser, 19, Tottenham Court Road; Mr. H. E. Enderby, The Grapes, Dering Street, Bond Street; Mr. R. H. Gillard, The Cedars Hotel, North End Road, W. Kensington; Mr. J. T. Gomm, Bedford Arms, 28, Blandford Street, Marylebone; Mr. T. Matcham, 80, Richmond Road, Bayswater; Mr. J. E. Neal, Blue Posts, 54, Charlotte Street; Mr. W. M. Pantaney, The Alma, 175, Westbourne Grove; Mr. W. R. Perry, Blue Posts, Tottenham Court Road; Mr. Howard Pont, Campden Arms, Campden Street, Kensington; Mr. G. W. H. Pryer, Black Lion, Bayswater Road; Mr. H. Rogerson, 10, King Street, Portman Square; Mr. F. C. Spillard, Bromley Arms, Cleveland Street; Mr. F. Tully, Crown and Two Chairmen, Dean Street, Soho; Mr. C. Vernesco, Blue Posts, Kingly Street, Regent Street; Mr. Francis Vesco, 2, Bateman Street, Soho; Mr. W. White, Clarendon Hotel, Clarendon Road, Holland Park; Mr. MacDonald, 37, Berwick Street; Mr. A. Bellatti, The Sadlers, Swallow Street, Piccadilly; Mr. E. H. Gilbert, Crown Hotel, High Street, Kensington; Mr. C. A. G. Moor, The Crown, 14, Brewer Street, Piccadilly Circus; Mr. S. Barr, 251, Elgin Avenue, Maida Vale; Mr. C. W. Oaten, Messrs. Curzon Bros., 133-5, Oxford Street; Mr. W. H. Ampleford, Adam and Eve Hotel, Kensington.

THE COFFEE STALL.

A SKETCH OF THE GUTTER HOTEL AND ITS PATRONS.

By George Edgar.

[A vivid word picture of nocturnal scenes at a "coffee stall" in the West End of London.]

At the moment I have ample opportunity of studying the coffee stall. I happen to live—at least I call it living—in a quiet square, somewhat grim when its trees are bare of leaf, which is a haven of all the respectabilities. About this quiet, uneventful square nothing seems to happen, excepting of course, milk vendors, muffin men, and coal carts. Time has made me reconciled to this square in which nothing happens, although I have yet to get thoroughly acclimatised to its habit of playing the piano on Sundays. Since the days of compulsory five-finger exercise I have never liked the piano. It is an instrument I hate on Sundays.

But this quiet square in which I live, and where nothing happens but shouting or yodeling petty tradesmen, plus too much exercise on the pianoforte during the week ends—this square, I say, has developed a special and a very exclusive interest in the dark hours. One night recently, about eleven-thirty, on going to the post, I heard a rumble of wheels. Anon, coming up with the cause, I discovered it to be a wooden vehicle, with a chimney sticking from its top. The chimney was smoking away like an overworked fire engine. The whole thing looked to be a caravan, dwarfed at birth, in which Lilliputian people were setting out to discover the simple life. This singular vehicle was being slowly drawn by two ghostly figures with gusty voices. They seemed to be having words in a throaty sort of manner. I duly marvelled at these apparitions, human and vehicular, and then went on my way. After confiding sundry efflorescences of my mind to the ruddy pillar-box, I essayed the journey back to the quiet square. And as I live, I found the dwarfed caravan had taken root opposite to my house and displayed every intention of making a night of it. Not only that—it had thrown off its disguise. The gusty-voiced men had taken out one side and revealed a counter. The inside beyond the counter was a blaze of light. An awning of tarpaulin had been rigged up on the windy side to prevent the lamp from being blown out. The whole thing was a coffee stall, and a youth, leaning gracefully against the counter, was eating a hard-boiled egg.

The Four Georges.

The thing has become part of my midnight landscape, and its presence is a continuous romance. I learn strange facts about a nation's food supply, unstated by the solemn economists; I plumb problems of conduct which are not solved by books on manners. The proprietor, or caretaker, wears a cardigan jacket and keeps his collar turned up. His patrons call him George. The Georges have always been great polishers. I polish an occasional phrase; a wiser and more matter-of-fact George polished up the steam engine; George Washington achieved unique honour amongst politicians by polishing up the truth. George who graces the coffee stall has perhaps a better title to his niche than the lot of us. He polishes up the coffee cups and saucers. I live in a world of surprises at the resource of George and his coffee stall. He is all things to all men and his stall can do so much for so many.

Promptitude, Economy and Dispatch.

The coffee stall keeper is an affable person. You say to him, "What ho! George; parkey, ain't it!" He will say cheerily, blowing through his nostrils like a policeman on night duty, "Not arf it ain't, no error." You can ask George for things after midnight, and he and the coffee stall can produce them. Between them they can find coffee and tea, sardine sandwiches, hard-boiled eggs, several sorts of cake, thick slices of bread and butter, and packets of "fags," all in the twinkling of an eye. You arrive at the restaurant. No glancing at the menu, or catching the waiter's eye—"What ho! George; how d'ye go? Cup of corfee an' a slice," you say. "Orl right, ole son, how's yourself?" George replies, and before he completes the answer to your greeting he slaps a cup of coffee and a slice of bread before you, and holds out his hand for the coppers. His manner of doing business reminds me of the advertised motto of an undertaker—it is all performed with promptitude, economy, and dispatch.

There are things to be seen at a coffee stall, and at it one learns the strange psychology of midnight feeders. Who would think a grenadier guardsman would wolf cake like a schoolboy and slap his chest over the transaction at midnight? I simply say it is so. Policemen drink hot coffee. They amble up slowly with a dignified movement. You would say they were ruminating on power and its application, might and its ineffable right, or possibly promotion and its inevitable stripe. You would be wrong. They are thinking of coffee. Every soldier may have a marshal's baton packed in his knapsack, and all that sort of rot; but to a constable on night duty a cup of hot coffee in the hand is worth two stripes and the chance of a broken head round the corner. I like to see a stoutish policeman blowing gravely over the hot coffee swimming in the saucer, but this I admit is a matter of taste. How many people know that cabmen of the growler class never drink coffee and always eat ham sandwiches? How many people know a taxi-cab driver's supper consists of a cigarette, a cup of tea, a sardine sandwich, and the expression of his private opinion about stuck-up policemen on point duty—the last an addition for digestive purposes? Who, by the way, has learnt that the homeless wanderer, tucking in his belt, will "blew" his last coppers on hard-boiled eggs? These facts make one wonder.

Comedy at the Coffee Stall.

There is comedy at the coffee stall—alcoholic in its inspiration. If a navvy, with clay soiled clothes and hob-nailed boots, strode into a fashionable hotel and ordered one of its amazing dinners, a world of well groomed people eating in the salon would have fits of coughing spasms. Something nearly like the same effect is occasionally produced at the coffee stall. A "toff" will come and sup there. A "toff" is an inexplicable being, and usually wears a dress shirt that bulges, a fawn overcoat wide open, and a silk hat hanging perilously on that back portion of his head which indicates self-control or the lack of it. The "toff" has often a tired eye. He is obsessed by the belief that he is seeing life, and at one o'clock a man must look on life with great condescension. As a rule the "toff" means well. He eats sardine sandwiches in a perfectly reckless manner, drinks many cups of coffee and keeps open house for the children of the night, who gorge themselves at his expense and pay him muddy compliments. His motto is "Live and Let Live," frequently reiterated. His manner is the hail-fellow-well-met type of address, but he eats the most sandwiches and counts his change with alcoholic carefulness. When he goes his guests spit upon the pavement, and in the subsequent conversation without their host frequently talk about the Deity.

A Tragic Note.

There is tragedy at the coffee stall. After the last 'bus has rattled by, when customers are few, someone comes out of the shadows garbing the lonely spirit of night. Someone in a hat which just misses a proper angle; with hair blowing about in wilful, feminine wisps. Someone wearing a thin fur of an uncertain quality and fashion, who, walking, shows a trace of white skirt, mud-bespattered. Someone with wild eyes, tamed, cowed, and frightened. Someone defiant, nonchalant, and ashamed. A little dishevelled ghost of the night, with a haunting smile on her faded, painted cheek. She asks for coffee in an uncertain whisper as she looks over her shoulder, fearful yet challenging, and everybody is kind to her.

I like my coffee stall keeper. I have known a gracious worldly kindness, so rare, one sometimes thinks it is not there. We do good business at the coffee stall. Scarcely profitable as the world wags—but good, very! We deal in the out-of-the-way humanities, George; in the little things that do not matter; in the cup of coffee and the crude virtues—price one penny. In short, we patiently tend the light which is only just kept burning. We keep it flaring—fitfully, perhaps, but still flaring—through the long night. Our little light is there when the bigger lights have gone out. Only when the sunlight streams over an awakening world and all is fair do we steal away. Our business is with the little light, and when the big lights are burning we are not wanted.

A start in life at £200 a year

offered by well-known business firm.

How the right man will be chosen.

A WONDERFUL opportunity is being laid before readers of this paper of obtaining a position with one of the most progressive of our great business firms at a commencing salary of £200 a year.

A well-trained business man or woman will shortly be required to fill a position with the Caxton Publishing Company, and this firm has decided to break away from the stereotyped methods of the ordinary labour market, and following the precedent of the British Government to throw this position open to public examination. This Examination will be open to all on conditions which will be sent free on application.

In the event of the winner of the Examination for any reason not wishing to take up the position offered, he, or she, can take as an alternative first prize £100 in cash. The position is one of considerable responsibility, and it offers quite unusual prospects of great advancement.

THE JUDGES.

The following prominent business men have kindly consented to act as judges.

Sir WILLIAM TRELOAR, Bart.
(ex-Lord Mayor of London).

Sir GEORGE RIDDELL.
(Director: News of the World, Ltd.; Director: Country Life, Ltd.; Director: Caxton Publishing Co., Ltd.).

Sir JOSEPH LYONS
(Managing Director: J. Lyons and Co., Ltd.).

T. J. BARRATT, Esq.
(Chairman: A. and F. Pears, Ltd.).

JOHN LAWRIE, Esq.
(Managing Director: William Whiteley, Ltd.).

The Examination is of an interesting character, and no question in it will be found beyond the capacity of an average business mind. As it is impossible to print in the limited space of this announcement the whole of the particulars, a brief Prospectus of the Examination has been prepared, indicating the character and scope of the Examination, which will be sent post free on receipt of the coupon at the bottom of next column.

Why you should Enter.

It is distinctly understood that sending for the Prospectus of the Examination does not commit any reader to the intention of entering the Competition. You may be already engaged in business for your own benefit, or may be earning a higher salary. But the examination project will nevertheless interest you. You may wish to bring it to the attention of some employé, some junior, or some friend. It is quite certain that the research and thought which will be bestowed on business subjects will make your employé or subordinate more useful in his or her work. Although you may not wish for the £200 salary, the alternative prize of £100 in money may appeal to you.

How It Concerns You.

But you, if engaged in business, will undoubtedly find the Examination interesting and informing. It will enlarge your views on Commercial Life. It will lead you to the consideration of problems which might never have occurred to you. It will unquestionably suggest new trains of business thought, and perhaps bring you into contact with ideas having practical value. Without consuming many hours of your time it will offer you profitable recreation during the long evenings. And, in addition, there are twelve substantial prizes. These prizes include:—

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BILLS THAT OUGHT TO BE PASSED.

THE PANTOMIME (PATRONS' PROTECTION) BILL.

[This is one of a series of suggested measures for dealing with admitted nuisances. They may be heartily supported by members of all parties—and of none.]

BE it enacted by the King's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

1.—On and after Boxing Day, 1912, any person found seated on a camp stool in the vicinity of the Pit door of any theatre within six hours of the opening of the said doors, with the manifest object of stealing a march on other intended patrons of the aforementioned Pit, shall be liable to summary arrest, and upon being brought before a magistrate may be sentenced to a fine of forty shillings, or in default seven days' imprisonment.

2.—Any female person liable to hysteria, fainting attacks, mad panic, or kicking tantrums, who shall join a queue waiting outside any theatre, shall, upon the first manifestation of her infirmity, be arrested, and when brought before a magistrate and charged, may be sentenced to a fine of five pounds, or in default a month's imprisonment.

3.—Any person eating an orange during the performance of a pantomime, and whether by accident or with intent, squirting the juice of the said orange upon the face or down the neck of any other person, shall be liable to be forcibly ejected from the theatre, and, upon making any attempt to re-enter the said theatre, or demanding his or her money back, shall be given in charge; and when brought before a magistrate may be sentenced to seven days' hard labour.

4.—Any person cracking nuts during the performance of a pantomime, whether by means of the teeth, hands, or feet, shall be liable to be forcibly ejected from the theatre, and to such other pains and penalties as are laid down in Clause 3.

5.—Any person in the pit of any theatre holding an audible conversation with any other person or persons in the gallery, and any person in the gallery holding audible conversation with any person or persons in the pit, during the performance of the pantomime, shall be forcibly removed from his or her seat and given in charge; and upon being brought before a magistrate, and convicted, may be sentenced to a fine of twenty shillings, or in default seven days' imprisonment.

6.—Any male occupant of a stage box who shall, within view of the audience, persist in giving any chorus girl or other female actress the Glad Eye during the performance of a pantomime, to the annoyance and confusion of other members of the said audience, shall be requested to desist, failing which he shall be hauled from his seat and kicked incontinently into the street by a duly authorised official.

7.—This Bill may be cited as The Pantomime Bill 1912.

UNCOMMON COMMON COMPLAINTS.

By G. G. Woodward.

WINTERSALIA FREEFITIS.

Sufferers are almost invariably of the female sex, and the age technically known as "uncertain" is peculiarly susceptible to its ravages.

While sickening for the complaint the routine of housework is abandoned, newspaper advertisements are carefully scanned, and illustrated catalogues of all sorts are greedily devoured. The crisis of the disease is usually reached in a few days, and at an early hour. Food palls. Breakfast is either bolted or entirely ignored and a rush made for the earliest possible train or tramcar.

When the West End Emporium is reached the patient, in company with hundreds of fellow-sufferers, storms the doors and a wild rush is made for the counters. The object of all this is, of course, to obtain relief, and this can only be procured by the attainment of certain articles attractively labelled "bargains." If these can be obtained, even if only in imagination, the fever quickly subsides and the after effects of utter lassitude and prostration set in.

Threatened attacks, if only foreseen, can often be warded off by the temporary loss of the male cheque book, but this remedy is useless if applied too late. When the symptoms are well developed the disease must assuredly run its course, nothing short of a strait-jacket being capable of restraining the mad rush of the patient. Permanent cures are beyond the pale of practical medicine.

CHARACTER DELINEATIONS.

By Our Tame Phrenologist.

[We have engaged, at enormous expense, an eminent phrenologist—who is, withal, a deep student of current problems—to "feel the bumps" of prominent public men, for the benefit of our readers. How he manages to secure the "sittings" is his own secret.]

THE EMPEROR OF GERMANY.

As you refused to send me a card, sir, I presume you have some very good reason for desiring to remain unknown. I will not attempt to penetrate your disguise, but your upturned moustaches and the fierce gleam in your eye suggest that you might possibly be the German Emperor!

There, there, your majesty, don't take on so. Your secret is safe with me. Only the page-boy saw you enter and I will myself let you out. But let me relieve your majesty of your cumbersome cloak. I had no idea my professional fame had reached your throne; but having done so, it was, of course, only natural that you should desire a character reading at my hands. You may not enjoy the experience, for this, I venture to say, is a temple of Truth.

Kindly be seated, your majesty, and I will begin.

Ah! . . . Hum! . . . Dear me! . . . T'ch, t'ch!! *What* a bump! And it's a little feverish, too, I find. Quite a temperature—local inflammation the doctors would call it. Which bump am I referring to? Why, *Combativeness*, of course, your majesty. It appears to be suffering from a sort of elephantiasis, due, I should

imagine, to the enforced suppression of its natural function. It should be treated at once, your majesty, or it will absorb all your other faculties, and altogether upset your mental balance. If you neglect it the idea of war will become an obsession, if it has not already so become. How should the disease be cured? That, your majesty, is a question for your physician—and your subjects.

Acquisitiveness is another bump that shows signs of undue development. It is in an agitated state, too, I notice. I will try a simple experiment upon it by mentioning the words "Belgium" and "Holland."

Ha! it moves your majesty. Let me also murmur "Morocco." Yes, it stirs quite distinctly beneath my touch! You must be careful, your faculties are in a dangerously unsettled state. Have you been sitting too much *in the sun* of late?

But what, in the name of heaven, is this enormous projection at the back of your head? Surely you have received an injury here, your majesty? You have not knocked your head against anything lately? Quite sure? But I cannot believe that your faculty of *Self-esteem* is of such vast proportions. You must think yourself more than mortal! . . . You do? . . . *Do* you, now? . . . Because you are a king? I see. Divine right, oh, yes; I *have* heard of that superst—er, that belief, I should say.

This bump of *Hope*, your majesty, is far too large also—quite out of proportion. You have too much hope. You are far too sanguine. For example, I daresay you hope we are going to let you out-build our Navy. Just so. Hope deferred maketh the heart sick, said a poet or somebody. You are in for a sick heart, your majesty.

You will send me the honorarium? Very good, your majesty. Good-day.

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Cousin Pons
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The Illustrious Gaudissart
The Village Curé
The Country Doctor
The Magic Skin
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Abridged Synopsis of Contents

will serve to give some idea as to how complete is its plan:—

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OPEN LETTERS, POSTCARDS, AND TELEGRAMS.

To Sir John McCraith, Nottingham.

DEAR SIR JOHN,—I do not at all agree with the somewhat airy view you take of the condition of things revealed by the special committee appointed to enquire into the management of Stoke Farm, which exists principally, as I understand, for the purpose of disposing of the sewage of your city. It seems to me beyond the shadow of a doubt not only that the management "cannot be regarded as satisfactory," to quote the words of the report, but that it has been extremely loose and indifferent, and in a certain sense underhand. It is sheer foolishness to minimise the gravity of the condition of things. The management has apparently been allowed to run the farm in his own way. There has been practically no supervision of its accounts, or of its methods, and no concern for its results.

It is clear that the report suggests more than it says; it whitewashes practices which a business concern would characterise in very different terms. For one thing, as Mr. Gutteridge rightly remarked at the Council meeting at which the report was considered, it propounds new definitions of honesty. With him I ask, "Whoever heard of false entries in wages books being referred to as 'probably not dishonest'; whoever heard of the finances of an undertaking being utilised for a different purpose from that for which they were set aside, and whoever heard of a huge business concern being so managed that the Committee for years had never been capable of having a basic principle on which to go in relation to their expenditure and receipts?" With him, I agree that the present management of the farm ought to be cleared out from top to bottom. A Corporation which allows the existence of the present state of affairs convicts itself of the grossest neglect or the grossest incompetence. It is not fit to manage and control a fried-fish shop. "Mr. Swain said there was not a single member of the Committee who knew these things were going on," and this in a speech for the defence! If it were not scandalous, it would be grotesque. For goodness' sake put away your whitewash brush, Sir John. (No doubt you could sell it to Mr. Masterman.) What Stoke Farm wants is a new broom.

JOHN BULL.

To the Rev. David Rollo, B.D., Minister, Springburn Parish Church, Glasgow.

MY DEAR B.D.,—Without the slightest desire unreasonably to limit your treasure upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt and where thieves break through and steal, permit me to draw your earnest and particular attention to Matt. vi. 24. With a salary of £700 a year I should have thought you would be adequately recompensed and adequately employed. When I say adequately recompensed I do not, of course, necessarily mean according to your abilities, but according to those spiritual desires which are supposed to limit the craving for worldly wealth; and I say adequately employed because I am told that in Scotland the demands upon the time of a minister in charge of a large congregation leave him no leisure for such extraneous spiritual duties as those with which the Glasgow Parish Council have entrusted you, at a further salary of £200. Even with the help of an assistant at £150, I am informed that a conscientious pastor of Springburn Church cannot accept the chaplaincy of the Stobhill Poorhouse without giving to each something less than his best and highest.

Hitherto the chaplain of the Poorhouse has devoted his whole time to spiritual service among the poor; this you know as well as I do, reverend brother. You must also know that many ministers would welcome the opportunity of giving their whole time to the Stobhill Poorhouse for £200 a year. Did you offer yourself for the post, or did the Parish Council offer the post to you? What can you do for these humble poor as spiritual ministrant that could not be done equally well and probably better by a less successful minister, to whom this £200 a year would be a boon and a blessing? The Presbytery of Glasgow is against pluralities in the Church, and your acceptance of the appointment, therefore, makes the case the more singular. It may be that it is your intention to resign your £700 a year charge at Springburn Church for this workhouse chaplaincy; in that case yours will be the praise.

JOHN BULL.

To J. V. Collier, Esq., ex-Chairman of the Water Committee, Northampton.

SIR,—It will not be a surprise to anybody concerned for a clean municipal administration that by a vote of 30 to 1 the municipal representatives of Northampton have called upon you to resign your chairmanship of the Water Committee. I think, however, that the obligations of honour demand your complete withdrawal from municipal activities. There ought to be no room for charges of boodling in the public life of Northampton. Its citizens cannot support a man who has introduced into the administration of the town's affairs the characteristics of Tammany. They can dispense with the services of a man who betrays them and degrades himself by utilising his position for the profit and aggrandisement of his relatives. You can be of no further use in the public life of Northampton, sir, and the consensus of opinion among the citizens is that you should accept the practically unanimous condemnation of your colleagues and leave municipal affairs alone. Your own lips have voiced the general opinion. The resolution of the Council in regard to your "reprehensible conduct" means exactly what you have said it does. It means that it considers your actions have been corrupt—that you were not influenced in them by regard for the best interests of the town. Your retirement from the Water Committee cannot adequately satisfy the requirements of that interpretation. You must choose between resigning the Council or having its doors closed against you by the burgesses.

The offence which you have committed against the recognised canons of British public life is so clearly proved, sir, that denial is abortive and palliation impossible. In brief, it is that you abused your position to induce your father-in-law and your brother-in-law to buy land in order that they might re-sell it, or part of it, to the Corporation at a large profit; that it was so sold, and that your relatives accordingly made a profit of £6,000. So much is on the surface. I am content to take the case on the facts as they appear. It was said at the meeting that you "would be exonerated if your father-in-law and your brother-in-law would hand over the land and leave the Council to pay them a fair remuneration for the sale they had taken." I do not think so, sir. It does not make a job less culpable that a part of the profits are disgorged. If the only way by which our Corporations can be put into possession of land for public works is by the trusted representatives of the ratepayers lining the pockets of their relations, then English municipal life is rotten indeed. But I do not believe it, sir. I believe that the great majority of men who sit upon our City and Borough Councils would scorn to be mixed up in so reprehensible and dirty a traffic. Stand not therefore, on the order of your going, but go.

JOHN BULL.

To the Right Hon. H. H. Asquith.

DEAR PRIME MINISTER,—I am sorry to hear that you are having a lot of trouble with your Cabinet, although, as you may be aware (for I know you read my journal regularly), I have frequently predicted that such would be the case. You know I have not much veneration for the Party System, of which you are at present the head, but I venture to suggest that so long as you have to play the game you should insist upon a strict observance of the rules, and not give your colleagues such a free hand. Let me remind you that the Cabinet is collectively responsible for the policy of the Party which it represents—and you must make up your official mind either to give or refuse Female Suffrage. At the same time, you must determine your policy in regard to Home Rule—and tell those of your colleagues who do not agree with it to clear out. I fully sympathise with you in your difficulties, and can offer but one suggestion—drop Party and form a Business Government.

JOHN BULL.

Hills, Thanks Ingworth, London.

Confess I think Churchill dealing with you considerately and fairly. Hope men will do everything to make contract possible.

BULL.

Cousins, Sergeant, Old Bailey, London.

Notice your description registry office marriages as hole and corner weddings. Doesn't matter *where* people are married, however; main point is to get value for money.

BULL.

A BLACK OUTLOOK.

"COME, NOW, LET US REASON TOGETHER."

JOHN BULL IN THE CITY.

By Verax.

Foreign politics seem to be clearing in view of the formation of a French Cabinet, which is a distinct improvement upon that of the now discredited M. Caillaux, who evidently was no friend of this country. Now that the German elections are over, the warlike Teutons will probably settle down again. Money is rather stiff, but should get easy as we get into February. The labour troubles we have still with us, and the coal merchants are reaping a golden harvest from the frightened householder, but I fancy that the miners' strike will not really come off, especially as the Lancashire dispute will shortly end in the collapse of the Union of the men. *Home Rails* have, of course, suffered, and are now on a strike basis. There will be much money in these sooner or later. The *Yankee market* is flat and has to contend with many difficulties. *Canadian Pacifics*, too, had best be left alone just now. *Bank shares* are mostly firm, further dividends proving satisfactory. *South African Bank shares* are rising. The engine drivers' strike in *Argentina* is fizzling out, and these *Railway shares* should be held. *Consols* and other gilt-edged stocks are weak. *Oil* and *Rubber shares* are on the up grade, and it is to me a great satisfaction to see precisely the *Maikop shares* rising, which readers of John Bull have bought on my advice during the period of depression. If investors would now buy *Rhodesia Ex.* and some of the subsidiaries, such as *Eldorado Bankets* and *Falcons*, or *Lonely Reefs*, *Shamvas*, etc., they would stand to make big profits. The opportunity to buy is precisely at times of depression, if one can make sure of the inherent merit of stocks. *Industrial shares* are still the rage, but the dangers of such speculation are obvious, and now forcibly illustrated by the sudden collapse of *Marconis* on the occasion of the settlement, when carry-over facilities were withdrawn. *Shipping and Steel shares* are slackening on the strike rumours, but my hint about *Van den Berghs Ordinary* of a week ago has proved timely, as the price has now risen to 47s. 6d., and in view of the continued scarcity and high prices of dairy produce a further rise is a foregone conclusion, considering the important position which the company holds in the matter of the margarine supply. The 17½ per cent. dividend is thoroughly assured, giving a yield of 7½ per cent. per annum, while there will be either a much larger credit balance brought forward into the present year, or else there will be a considerable increase in the dividend. I should think that a balance of £200,000 carried forward, as it was a year ago, is big enough in all conscience, and that the surplus might go to the shareholders. *Inkram Cotton Estates* are advancing at 1s. 1¾d.-1s. 4¾d. Owing to the rise in prices of West African cotton, it is anticipated that the negotiations for the sale of the company's entire output of clean Caravonian lint for the next three years at 9d. per pound will be satisfactorily concluded.

General Omnibus Suspense—Why Exact such Onerous Terms?

Time after time the publication of the General Omnibus agreement with the "Tubes" has been put off, and, at the time of writing this document has not yet made its appearance. Evidently there are still some obstacles to overcome, which probably arise from a group sticking out for still better terms than the £200 per £100 Omnibus stock already offered. If it is true, as I am informed, that these holders want £300 per £100 Omnibus stock, this would certainly look extortionate. The price offered appears ample when it is remembered, also, that the Combine will shortly have to face serious competition on the part of the various new motor omnibus companies now forming, while, should a war of rates ensue, neither side can emerge without financial damage. I hold no brief for any of the parties, but let those who are not satisfied with the terms offered remember that they can go further and fare worse, that is to say, compel the Underground group to throw up the negotiations in disgust, and even start lines of motor omnibuses on their own.

South African Mines—A Good Time Coming—East Rand Props—Rhodesia Ex Amalgamation Carried Unanimously—Diamonds Booming.

The December gold output of the Transvaal proved fully up to expectations, amounting to 709,908 ozs. of fine gold, only 9,821 ozs. less than November, while allowance must be made for the extra holidays in December. The natives in the gold mines have increased by 1,550 to 178,282, and the labour supply generally is expected to greatly increase. On Thursday, 18th inst., the meeting of *East Rand Prop.* shareholders takes place in the Great Hall, Cannon Street Hotel, to hear Sir George Farrar's statement. I understand that affairs with other magnates have been satisfactorily settled, and there is every prospect of Sir George, to whom this will be a matter of honour, pulling round these valuable properities. The outlook for *Kaffirs* is therefore much brighter. As I anticipated, notwithstanding the hysterical comments in certain papers, the amalgamation of the *Rhodesia Exploration* with the *Goldfields Rhodesia Development Company* has been unanimously confirmed by the shareholders. At the *Rhodesia Ex.* meeting Mr. Walter Forbes, who presided, explained the position frankly, and made an interesting point by stating that at the end of 1910 the total assets showed a value of £2,923,000, while on the 14th ult. the net position, despite the great fall in prices, was £2,805,000, a very small difference. Mr. H. G. Latilla quite distinguished himself by the clever and racy manner in which he put the case. The deal, he said, was one which the *Cons. Goldfields* were anxious to make, and the fact that they paid £2 10s. 7½d. per *Rhodesia Ex.* share proved that they expected to make a profit out of them on that price. As regards Sir Abe Bailey's position towards the deal, he explained with quiet humour that "his position, broadly speaking, was that of any other individual who held no shares in either company." Sir Abe Bailey had cabled to him that he was retiring from business, and he was, moreover, bound for a period of seven years not to compete with them. This will be quite a comfort to the jobbers, whose *bête noir* Sir Abe has somehow or other always been. By the way, the market has stood his selling the whole of his shares remarkably well. It was Sir Abe's selling of *Eldorado Bankets* which put the price down, while the jobbers thought there was something wrong at the mine, which is not the case. In my opinion we shall in the course of this year see an important rise in *Rhodesians*, in which *Rhodesia Ex.* and many of its subsidiaries should play an important part. Mr. Latilla, by the way, may be expected to become one of the shining lights at City meetings. *Diamond shares* are booming again and *De Beers* are up at 20 7-16, *Premier Def. at* 10½ per share of 2s. 6d. Prices will no doubt go higher, but I strongly advise my readers not to be drawn into some of the low-priced shares with the merest prospects which are now being pushed, and about which I shall have something to say next week.

The Diamond Proprietary Company, Ltd.

Practically the only lively share in the mining market during the past week has been Diamond Proprietary. In spite of the general depression these have appreciated. Thousands of shares have changed hands, and I confidently predict that the sellers will bitterly regret having parted with their holdings. Everything points to the possibility that in the "Gong Gong"—the property of the Diamond Proprietary Company—we see a second Premier Mine, and when one thinks that as recently as 1902—ten years ago—the Premier, which has now a market valuation of near five millions sterling, changed hands at £50,000—precisely the capitalisation of the Diamond Proprietary—the possibilities of a substantial profit on a purchase of Diamond Proprietary shares are evident.

The Rise in Oil Shares—Shell Transports Strong—Premier Pipe Line Advancing—Egyptian Oil Trust Active—Mr. George Tweedy on Maikop.

A strong upward movement is in progress in *Oil shares*, *Shell Transports* leading with a rise of 2s. 6d. to 85s., partly on reports that the oil war has now come to an end. At all events, prices of oil are rising in various quarters, the Standard Oil Trust being either unable or unwilling to keep them down any longer. *Spies* are also better, and *Mexican Eagles* have taken a jump to 32s. on reports that Lord Cawdray would provide £500,000 for the more rapid development of the huge properties.

I drew attention last week to *Premier Oil and Pipe Line* shares as being on the eve of a rise, and they have now improved to 19s. 6d., buyers, with every prospect of a more important rise. Telegrams from Boryslaw advise a further advance in the price of oil to 3.15 kr. per 100 kilos by the *Crude Oil Producers' Union of Galicia*, which means a rise of 1s. 3d. to 26s. 3d. per ton, and this advance will be paid already on all oil delivered by the members from May 1 to December 31, 1911. This means an unexpected profit for the *Premier*, in addition to the increased profits already being realised owing to the previous rise in oil. Larger dividends are therefore in sight, and in the meantime the present price is still *cum* the last interim dividend at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum.

I may also take credit to myself for my consistent recommendation of *Black Sea Oilfields* and *Maikop Victory*, the

two chief producing companies on the Maikop Oilfields, while many of my contemporaries were preaching the collapse of the field. Mr. George Tweedy, the managing director of the *Anglo-Maikop*, the premier group, just returned from Maikop, has brought with him the news of the complete realisation of all his anticipations. Working on steadily and not heeding these criticisms, he has now been able to impart to a representative of the *Financial News* most important information, to the effect that four of his companies (the *Black Sea, Victory, Pipe Line* and *Refineries*), with an aggregate capital of £750,000, are now earning profits at the combined rate of £250,000 a year, and this is, I am informed, "net" profit, not, as my contemporary puts it, "gross." The *Black Sea Oilfields* realised a profit of £46,000 for 1911, and has now increased its weekly output to 132,000 poods. There are three wells working, and four more will be at work in six weeks, one almost at once. The 7 per cent. preference dividend will probably be announced this week. The meeting of shareholders will be held in about a fortnight, and then Mr. Tweedy will have a most wonderful tale to unfold. The company could, if it liked, pay an additional 15½ per cent. on the prefs., making 22½ per cent., and something like 30 per cent. on the ordinary, but they are not likely to divide up to the hilt. The *Maikop Victory* has also made large profits; it has at present three working wells, of which well No. 1 is so powerful that it has been obstructed by sand, but it will by this time be quite ready to give a large supply again. One more well is nearly completed and six more are being sunk. I understand that in five weeks' time there will be ten wells altogether, and the production will be at least 120,000 poods per week. The *Victory* has paid one dividend of 10 per cent. It could easily pay 10 or 20 per cent. more, and an early distribution is foreshadowed. *Black Sea Oilfields Prefs.* are up at 1½, the *Ordinary* at 1, and *Maikop Victory* at 1-16 discount. This is an all-round rise of ¼, but I shall expect to see *Black Sea Oilfields* at 1⅛, *Maikop Victory* at ⅛ premium.

The terms of the agreement between the *Egyptian Oil Trust* and the *Royal Dutch-Shell group* have now been published and well received. The *Shell group*, of course, makes a good thing out of the transaction, which gives it full control of the vast Egyptian oilfields, but the *Egyptian Oil Trust*, too, benefits very largely, and I shall expect to see these shares rise to their former price of 4. The field has the unique advantage of being situated so close to the seaboard that pipe lines are unnecessary, while a further advantage is that it is located on one of the most important highways of the world.

JOHN BULL'S FINANCIAL LETTER-BOX.

(1) Letters containing enquiries must be addressed to the City Editor, JOHN BULL, 2, Copthall Buildings, E.C. The names and addresses of correspondents must be enclosed, not, of course, for publication, but in token of good faith. Anonymous communications will be disregarded.

(2) Correspondents should adopt either a nom-de-plume, or mention initials, under which the replies will appear in the paper. The stocks or subjects inquired about should also be numbered.

(3) Replies are made only in the ordinary way through the columns of this journal under the above heading, and not by letter.

(4) In no circumstances will the proprietors undertake the sale or purchase of stocks or shares.

(5) If inquirers wish it, for transacting business, the names and addresses of respectable firms of stockbrokers, members of the London Stock Exchange, will be supplied to them, in which case a stamped addressed envelope must be enclosed.

(6) A Postal Order for 1/- must accompany each Financial or Insurance Enquiry.

UNION PACIFIC PREFERRED.—R. C.—A good holding of the kind, but hardly on the same level as Midland Preferred.

MARCONIS NEW.—MIND-THE-STEP.—Yes, you can sell the shares now, but you will not get paid until the Special Settlement takes place. The dates of the calls are duly announced in advance.

PROVINCIAL BANK.—G. B. G.—As far as I am aware, these bank shares have only declined in sympathy with others, but if you have any uneasiness on the matter, why not sell and re-invest in the shares of one of the leading London joint-stock banks?

OBSCURE CONCERN.—GRANITE.—In the first place, you were wrong to have anything to do with the concern in question, which is nothing else but an outside broker's of a very dubious type. In the second place, any money you spend by accepting this transfer might as well be thrown into the sea. And in the third place, these people are not worth powder and shot. The lesson is—cut your loss, and have nothing more to do with people of this kidney.

PREMIUM BONDS.—DORPAAR.—(1 to 3) What you require has been forwarded to you. (4) I strongly advise you to make no further investment in this concern. In fact, I believe they have already wound up their business, but you had better write to them about your shares.

OUTSIDE BROKERS.—A. J. S. (Watford).—You must be aware that I do not recommend dealing with outside brokers, and you cannot call such business investment, and least of all safe investment, as it is only speculation. F. M. D.—I have had no complaints with regard to this firm, but you will quite understand that it is a pure speculation, and that you can lose quite as easily as gain.

CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY.—SUSSEX.—Everything depends as to whether this Company is still solvent. If it is so, no doubt you would get off with forfeiting the amount paid up, but if it is not solvent, the Liquidator would, of course, make you responsible.

BUILDING SOCIETY'S GUARANTEED BANK DEPOSITORY.—SECURITY.—No, I strongly advise you to have nothing to do with this. You might easily lose your money. I should think the Post Office Savings Bank would be preferable to you, or if you have a larger amount to invest, put it into sound securities which will yield you 3½ to 3¾ per cent.

TOMORROW OR DOMINION.—ORIEL.—You will find this exceedingly difficult, but, of course, not knowing what kind of business it would be, it is impossible for me to judge. The best plan is to advertise in the daily Press for capitalists to finance you.

WEST END CLOTHIERS.—CRABAPPLE.—(a) Issued capital:—£66,242 4½ per cent. First Debentures, and 80,000 5½ per cent. £1 Preference shares; quoted at 7⅝ and 1s. 4d.xd. respectively. The Debenture interest is being paid in full, but the Preference dividend is in arrear ex from August 1st, 1908. (b) The Ordinary shares are held privately—viz., by the vendors—and there is no quotation for the same. (c) As the Preference dividend is so much in arrear, it is obvious that nothing is being paid on the Ordinary shares. (d) About £14,000 of Debentures. (e) Answered under c. (f) Public company.

ASSURANCE MICE.—SENEX PUERILIS.—(a) Unforeseen misfortunes have so far dogged this Company, but it is gradually shaking off its troubles, and the shares should be held for an improvement. (b) I do not care for these oil shares, especially in the present condition of that market.

FOREIGN INVESTMENTS.—SCOTIA.—Nos. 1 and 2 are good holdings of the kind, but the stocks mentioned under No. 3 are of a superior status. When making investments, especially in the Foreign department, it should always be borne in mind that the degree of risk is in inverse proportion to the yield, and that the investment should be spread over as many stocks as possible.

BRITISH PREFERRED INVESTMENTS.—H. E. E.—I have nothing further to add to my remarks, but I would strongly deprecate your placing the whole of your savings in this concern. Keep the same in the P.O. Savings Bank, where you can depend upon absolute safety.

£2,000 FOR INVESTMENT.—INQUIRER.—Place the money in the following securities:—West Australian 3½ per cent. at 96½; Cape 3 per cent. at 87; Japanese 4 per cent. at 86¼xd.; Argentine Sterling 4½ per cent. Loan at 100; Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Prior Lien 3½ per cent. bonds at 99½; Grand Trunk Guaranteed 4 per cent. stock at 97½; Canadian Northern 4 per cent. Perp. Cons. Debentures at 96; Mexican Railway 8 per cent. First Preference at 139; Buenos Ayres Western Railway 4 per cent. Debentures at 101; Shawinigan Water and Power 4½ per cent. Debentures at 103½; Dominion Iron and Steel 5 per cent. bonds at 97; Rio de Janeiro 50-year 3 per cent. bonds at 58. The general principle would be to invest the bulk in the absolutely gilt-edged descriptions, and spread the remainder over the other stocks.

CANADIAN LAND SHARES.—SOUTH.—I do not advise the investment, and you would do better, in the long run, to put your money in the shares of the old-established Canadian Land Companies, which, moreover, possess a ready market.

£300 INVESTMENT.—BOB H.—Your best plan would be to put the money into a gilt-edged security, such as Western Australian 3½ per cent. bonds, at 97. This gives over 1 per cent. per annum more than can be obtained from the Post Office Savings Bank, and the security is unimpeachable.

A large number of replies are unavoidably held over.

INSURANCE REPLIES.

Insurance Enquiries should be addressed Insurance Editor, 93, Long Acre, W.C.

NATIONAL UNITED ASSURANCE SOCIETY.—J. D. (Cork).—We will look into the matter.

STATUS OF COMPANY.—P. N. K. (Bow).—We should prefer another selection. E. K. (Hull).—Ditto. F. D. (Watford).—It is financially strong. You need have no fear on that score.

ROYAL LONDON FRIENDLY SOCIETY.—A HARDWORKING MAN (London).—If the facts are as you state them you have been very badly treated, but we regret to say that the injustice is one that comes within the four corners of the law. F. I. (Carlisle).—The agent misled your wife. The policy is illegal, but it might be paid upon maturity.

BRITANNIC LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY.—F. C. (Belfast).—You cannot enforce payment. The Company would probably pay.

PEARL LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY.—R. W. (Stoke-on-Trent).—The policy will probably be paid at death, although it is illegal.

REFUGE ASSURANCE COMPANY.—A MEMBER OF THE LEAGUE (Manchester).—The policy is legal.

LONDON AND MANCHESTER ASSURANCE COMPANY.—C. H. (Bristol).—If the facts are as you state them the policies are illegal, and the premiums could be recovered. H. W. (Fulham).—The policy is only legal if you insured for the purpose of funeral expenses.

NATIONAL STANDARD LIFE ASSURANCE CORPORATION.—C. S. (Hackney Road).—We are disposed to agree with you.

WESLEYAN AND GENERAL ASSURANCE SOCIETY.—W. C. (Ilkley).—We agree that it is scurvy treatment, but as you have consented to settle there is no more to be said.

REGAL FIRE AND ACCIDENT COMPANY.—J. AND G. (Llanelly).—We do not see what you can do. The Company is within its rights in closing the department, and since the contract is a monthly one, subject to determination at any time by either party, you can do nothing but accept the notice.

THREE POLICIES.—A. T. (Dublin).—Having regard to the letter from the head office, we think you may safely continue the payments.

SUN LIFE OF CANADA.—PUNCH (Exeter).—Yes, we think you may safely do so.

NATIONAL COMMERCIAL INSURANCE COMPANY.—T. E. F. (Torquay).—The answer is in the negative.

BRITISH EQUITABLE ASSURANCE COMPANY.—D. R. A. (London).—The Company is one of old standing, but it is not making the progress that has been made by some other companies.

LIFE ASSURANCE.—AXO (Kew Green).—We cannot advise you unless you let us know what kind of insurance you want.

SCOTTISH LEGAL LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.—J. T. (Edinburgh).—If the facts are as you state them the premiums might be recovered.

PROVIDENT ASSOCIATION OF LONDON.—C. G. (Selhurst).—No doubt you incurred heavy loss by accepting the surrender value, but the Association is prepared to pay you what it undertakes to pay, and in these circumstances you can do nothing but either accept the surrender value or go on paying on the bond.

PRUDENTIAL ASSURANCE COMPANY.—S. E. (York).—Sue in the County Court, alleging fraud. W. G. M. (West Hartlepool).—Get the assured to sign an assignment to you and make the Company recognise it. E. W. G. (Cardiff).—Sue in the County Court and prove forgery. H. E. (Leeds).—We do not advise proceedings, as your wife signed. W. H. B. (Birmingham).—The premiums are recoverable. Consult a good local solicitor. A. P. (Bristol).—We do not advise proceedings unless you could prove fraud. J. C. (Aspley Guise).—We cannot say without knowing more of the particulars. W. H. L. (Normanton).—If the proposal forms were forged the premiums are recoverable.

It is requested that all letters sent us relating to the validity of policies held in the Prudential be marked on the envelope "Prudential." Owing to the thousands of enquiries which have been received, some little delay in dealing with them is unavoidable, but every endeavour is being made to expedite matters.

SPURIOUS SYMPOSIUMS.

SUPPOSITITIOUS REPLIES OF PROMINENT PEOPLE.

[*It is our custom to hold a weekly—imaginary—symposium upon some topic of the hour, giving the views of representative men.*]

THE BOOK THAT HAS HELPED.

Having asked a number of celebrities which book, if any, has been their greatest inspiration and of most help to them in climbing the ladder of fame, we have received the following replies, which are published for the edification of our more youthful readers, who still have their way to make in the world :—

Mr. ANDREW CARNEGIE, always so ready to give away the secrets of his phenomenal success, writes :—

The book that inspired me most of all, the book that enabled me to plant my feet firmly on the lower rungs of the ladder of fame, and then pushed me up round after round to the top, was—my bank book.

The Rev. F. B. MEYER is unusually brief :—

I owe more to the *Decameron* of Boccaccio than I would care to tell you.

Mr. WINSTON CHURCHILL makes an interesting confession :—

Since early boyhood Captain Marryat's cycle of sea stories, *Mr. Midshipman Easy, Jacob Faithful*, etc., has been my inspiration and my joy. Without their aid I doubt whether I ever should have risen to the splendid and responsible position of First Lord of the Admiralty.

Mr. REGINALD MCKENNA owes his success to a song rather than to a book :—

I was never particularly keen on books; but that sweet old song *Home, Sweet Home* always had power to draw tears to my eyes. When quite a boy I determined to become Home Secretary some day.

Mr. WALTER RUNCIMAN sucked his inspiration from the classics. Says he :—

My favourite reading, from as far back as I can remember, has always been Virgil's *Georgics*. You will remember that the first book deals with the different kinds of tillage proper to different soils, and gives a catalogue of the farmer's tools, as well as specifying the employments peculiar to each season. The second book touches on forestry; and the third is concerned with stock-raising and the diseases of cattle. These early studies inspired me with the ambition which, after many years of various and uncongenial labour, at last has been realised—my boyish ambition to rise to be the President of the Board of Agriculture.

Mr. HALL CAINE writes :—

If my rise to the proud position of the Super-Manxman is in any degree due to any particular book, it must be Huxley's famous work, *Man's Place in Nature*. I never read it, but I have no doubt it turned the eyes of the public towards my beloved Island home, and thus prepared them for the shock of my startling appearance on the literary firmament.

Miss MARIE CORELLI has no doubts. She says :—

The book that inspired me most of all, and which laid the foundation of my literary career, giving me courage in the face of difficulties, hope when in doubt, and soothing me when suffering the slings and arrows of outrageous criticism, was my first novel, *The Romance of Two Worlds*. It can still be obtained at the bookstalls, if ordered, for 6s., or at the discount booksellers for 4s. 6d.

Mr. CHARLES BROOKFIELD makes an interesting statement :—

I daresay I could have written *Dear Old Charlie* in any case, but I doubt very much whether I should have had the courage to accept my present position under the Lord Chamberlain had I not always been a keen admirer and diligent student of the works of *Cato*—the Censor, you know.

Dr. MACNAMARA regards the question from a strictly utilitarian point of view He says :—

The book that has been of most use to me, and which I still like to keep handy, is the English Dictionary.

WITH reference to the fire at the Cerebos Salt Works at Greatham, County Durham, we learn that on the day following the outbreak large temporary premises were secured, where the company will re-commence full operations in about two weeks. The manufacture of salt itself was not seriously interfered with by the fire. Large new works now nearing completion on the company's salt estate at Greatham were fortunately saved. Owing to a failure of the public water supply during the fire, the Cerebos Company's own brigade switched on to their brine reservoirs, and about 1,000 tons of brine was pumped upon the burning buildings, the fire not being extinguished for several days.

ANTICIPATED EPITAPHS.

By W. M.

[*In this column we give from week to week an anticipatory—always good-humoured—Epitaph of some celebrity of the day. We need scarcely say we hope it will be many years before his relatives will have to consider seriously our suggestion.*]

Ryght here,
Beneathe thys monumente,
Repofe
Ye mortal remaynes
Of
Colonel Theodore Roosevelt,
Sundrie tymes
PRESIDENT
Of
YE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.
Born
Anno Domini 1858,
Ye sonne of a profperous merchante,
Hee was educated att Harvard,
And
Became soe experte in emittynge
Ye College Yell
Thatte a greate future was prohecyed for hym.
Thys prognofticka̅cion was fulfilled,
For,
Havynge become a member of
Ye New York Legiflature
Anno Domini 1882,
Hee rofe rapidly
To ye hygheft posi̅cion in ye State,
Becomynge Prefident thereof
Anno Domini 1901.
Meanwhyles
He hadde made much noyfe in ye worlde,
Fyghtynge ye Spaniſh in Cuba,
Shewynge hys teeth atte
Ye Grafters,
And
Advocatynge ye policie of
Ye Bigge Sticke
And
Ye bigge familie.
Hys seckonde terme of offyce havynge expyred,
Hee wente to Africka on a huntynge tryppe,
Accompanyed by hys sonne
Kermit,
Where,
Itt is whyfpered,
Hee didde as muche execu̅cion
Amongfte ye denizens of ye jungle
Wyth hys grinne as wyth hys gunne.
Returnynge bye waie of Egypt
Hee tooke ye opportunitie
To leckture ye Egyptian Nationalyfts
Lyke a Dutch Unckle.
Defcendynge next upon Germanie
Hee gave ye Emperour William
Some ufefull lefsons
In ye art of autocratick governmente.
Lafte came Englande's turne;
For atte ye Guildhalle and other places
Hee tryed to teache hys grandmother
How to sucke egges.
Then,
To ye unutterable relief of Europe,
Butte
To ye alarum and confternacion of hys suckcefsor,
Prefidente Taft,
Hee wente back to God's own countrie,
Ye United States of Americka,
Where,
Shewynge hys teeth to ye lafte
And wieldynge ye Bigge Sticke to ye end,
Hee dyed.

Here, reftynge from ye worlde's unceafynge stryfe,
Lyes one whoo tryed to lyve ye strenuous lyfe;
Hys greatest tytle to immortal fame
Beynge—hee gave ye Teddy Bear its name!

"MRS. BULL."
EVERY TUESDAY. PRICE ONE PENNY.

UNIQUE GIFT OFFER TO ALL WHO DESIRE BETTER HEALTH AND MORE ENERGY.

This series of Mr. Sandow's "Health Library" Books is being distributed gratis.

HERE are shown the titles of a series of 24 "Health Library" Books that Mr. Sandow is distributing gratis to all who desire (1) better health, (2) brighter spirits, and (3) more energy.

Bound in one Volume, these booklets would form a large "Encyclopaedia of Health." It is for the convenience of the public that Mr. Sandow is publishing this book in 24 parts. Each part deals in handy-size booklet form with one class of ailment. Each is strictly limited to the description of a means of relieving and curing the trouble that its title indicates, either at Mr. Sandow's Curative Institute or in the reader's own home, by a few simple and easy curative movements prescribed by Mr. Sandow, and which call for but a few minutes daily.

Any man or woman desirous of achieving healthy freedom from any of the entitled ill-health conditions may learn how to do so by sending for and studying the booklet relative to his or her trouble.

Is *Indigestion* sapping your health and strength? Then send for Mr. Sandow's "Health Library" Book entitled "Indigestion," and learn how the author's system restores functional power to your stomach without medicine of any kind.

Would you like to know how you may get rid of *Constipation* and *Biliousness*? In such case, accept Mr. Sandow's offer of his booklet dealing with "Constipation." Read for yourself how the human bowel may be restored to regular performance of its function.

FREE

1. Indigestion & Dyspepsia.
2. Constipation and its Cure.
3. Liver Troubles.
4. Nervous Disorders (Men).
5. Nervous Disorders (Women).
6. Obesity (Men).
7. Obesity (Women).
8. Heart Affections.
9. Lung and Chest Troubles.
10. Rheumatism and Gout.
11. Anæmia: Cause and Cure.
12. Kidney Disorders.
13. Lack of Vigour.
14. Physical Defects (Men).
15. Physical Defects (Women).
16. Defective Speech.
17. Circulatory Troubles.
18. Skin Disorders.
19. Physical Development (Men).
20. Everyday Health.
21. Boys' and Girls' Ailments.
22. Figure Culture (Women).
23. Insomnia
24. Neurasthenia.

The 24 parts of Mr. Sandow's Health Library—which he offers to distribute free to all ailing readers—if bound in one volume would form a large-size "Encyclopædia of Health," as illustrated. For the convenience of the sufferer, however, and in order that he or she may not be burdened with unnecessary reading, Mr. Sandow is publishing his Health Library in 24 separate parts as above list.

Within 7 to 10 Days.

Or is it that you want relief from that hydra-headed Demon of Ill-health, Neurasthenia? See, in his "Health Library" booklet, how Mr. Sandow makes your body (1) create and (2) circulate a healing blood-balm to the anæmic centres and frayed-out filaments of your nervous system. Within 7 to 10 days a soothing and strengthening feeling arises as the result of following Mr. Sandow's successful system.

Are you "Liverish," or in other words, is your Liver always complaining? The liver is never lazy, but it sometimes over-burdened with work. Long continued over-burdening of the liver may gradually lead to a failure of its functions in some degree or another. Mr. Sandow tells, in his book on "Liver Troubles," how all other organs in the body may be recruited to form an invincible army of relief and restoration for your Liver.

Whatever your trouble, accept Mr. Sandow's offer of any one or more of the appropriately helpful books in his "Health Library." Each tells of the means of relief and cure of some one class of complaint.

The more you understand Mr. Sandow's system of so treating your body as to enable it to free itself from unnatural ill-health, the more will you appreciate its wonderful health-creating powers. Nine out of every ten sufferers allow their troubles to become chronic through unnatural or improper treatment. Every day the complaints of tens of thousands pass into the chronic stage, whilst thousands of persons drift daily into the incurable stage.

Do not allow your Indigestion or Dyspepsia, your Constipation, Neurasthenia, or Liver trouble to spread and destroy, first, the functional power, and then the very tissue-fabric of your stomach, bowel, nerves or liver.

Consult Mr. Sandow Personally.

Call and consult Mr. Sandow personally. Let him tell you what the Sandow Curative Treatment will do for you. Mr. Sandow never holds out hopes that his long and wide experience tells him cannot be realised by his system. Indeed, he accepts as patients only those who he is reasonably certain will be cured or considerably relieved.

Wonderful 'Health by-Post' System.

Thousands of patients who have never visited Mr. Sandow's Consulting Room have received the benefit of his unrivalled experience. So perfect is his system that persons living thousands of miles away are able to benefit, as if they had actually had a personal consultation with Mr. Sandow.

Call or Write To-day.

Call or write to-day. It may mean the turning point in your life, towards health of body and happiness of mind.

When sending the Coupon asking for the free book (or books) you would like to read, by sending also such information as will enable Mr. Sandow to send a special letter of advice, you will save valuable time. With a letter containing full particulars of your condition before him, Mr. Sandow is able to prescribe just the course of treatment that will relieve and cure you.

Address: Mr. Eugen Sandow, the Sandow Curative Institute, 32, St. James's Street, Piccadilly, London, S.W.

SANDOW'S HEALTH LIBRARY COUPON.

To EUGEN SANDOW, JOHN BULL.
THE SANDOW CURATIVE INSTITUTE,
32, St. James's Street, Piccadilly, London, S.W.

Please send your Health Library Book (or Books) No.....
entitled.....
Please say whether Mr., Mrs., Miss or other title. NAME .....
ADDRESS .....
Age .....Occupation .....

The following are essential particulars: Age, occupation, previous illnesses, duration of trouble, and illness for which the applicant is desirous of looking into the question of the Sandow Curative Treatment. Mr. Sandow will accompany the book (or books) with a personal letter of advice as to the suitability of your case for a cure by his system.

This personal information for Mr. Sandow's guidance can be stated in a letter accompanying this Coupon.

IMAGINARY INTERVIEWS.

BY WALTER MOORE.

GEORGES HACKENSCHMIDT.

[*In this column our contributor, Mr. Walter Moore, has an imaginary interview with some celebrity of the day.*]

It will be within the recollection of my readers that I had interviews with Jack Johnson and Bombardier Wells some months ago. Having escaped with my life from the perils of those encounters, my reviving interest in athletics led me, the other day, to seek an interview with Georges Hackenschmidt, who recently returned to London.

I found him nursing his injured knee.

"Hello, Georgie!" I cried, "so you're back again?"

"Oh, yes," replied Hackenschmidt, lifting his eyes.

"Don't be down-hearted," I said, cheerily. "You were certainly badly beaten by Gotch, but you'll pull it off next time."

"I know that," returned Hackenschmidt. "That is to say, provided my knee keeps good."

"Don't think about that," I said, briskly. "Rub something in—castor oil, turps, or something—and then forget it. You'll be all right on the night."

"I know that," said Georges, grimly. "I've learned something since I was in England last. I've found out a new hold that will make Gotch open his eyes when he feels it. It's like this." And Hackenschmidt, to my horror and surprise (thinking him crippled), rose nimbly.

"Be careful!" I cried. "Mind your knee! You should take every precaution at this stage——"

Here I dodged behind the piano.

"Don't you worry," laughed Georges. "My knee is not so bad as all that. I just want to show you this new hold. It is a kind of strangle grip."

"Not on any account," I said, retreating in good order. "I wouldn't be a party to your running any risks with that knee of yours. I should never forgive myself if you were to get hurt in any way."

"Don't talk rot," cried Hack, reaching over the piano and grasping me by the collar. "Come here. I want to demonstrate this new hold that I'm going to beat Gotch with."

"Do you think it wise?" I asked, hanging on to the piano with hands and feet. "Remember, I am a perfect stranger to you. How do you know but that I might convey the information secretly to Gotch? Don't do it."

By way of reply Hackenschmidt, keeping a grip of my collar, walked round the piano to my side.

"I just want to show you this new hold."

"Don't be a fool," he said. "I shan't hurt you."

"I—I'm n—not th-th-thinking of myse-self," I retorted. "It's your kn-n-nee I'm worried ab-ab-about."

"That's all right, then," said Georges. "Now, my idea is this. Soon's Gotch starts trying to gouge my eye out or tear my ear off like he did in America last year, I shall just get my new grip on him—so, and, turning him over—so, drop on him—so, see?"

"See?" repeated Hackenschmidt, removing his knee.

I maintained a discreet silence.

"See?" roared Hack again, dragging me to my feet and carrying my limp form to the couch.

"I'm just beginning to," I replied, faintly. "I think I can see the way out if you will show me where it is. But don't do that again; it might hurt your knee."

If one has sometimes to suffer in the interests of JOHN BULL, the cause is worth the pain, I mused, as I limped into a taxi.

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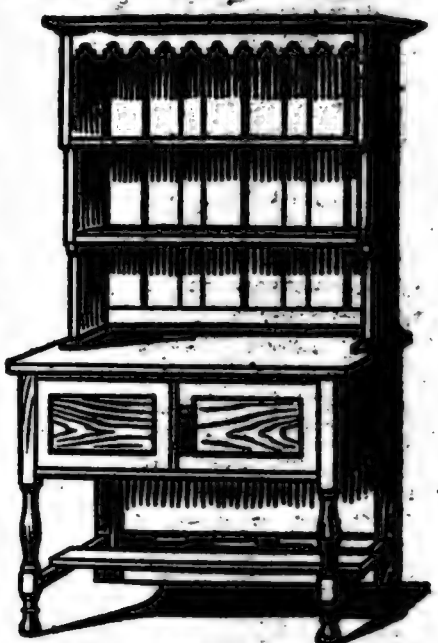

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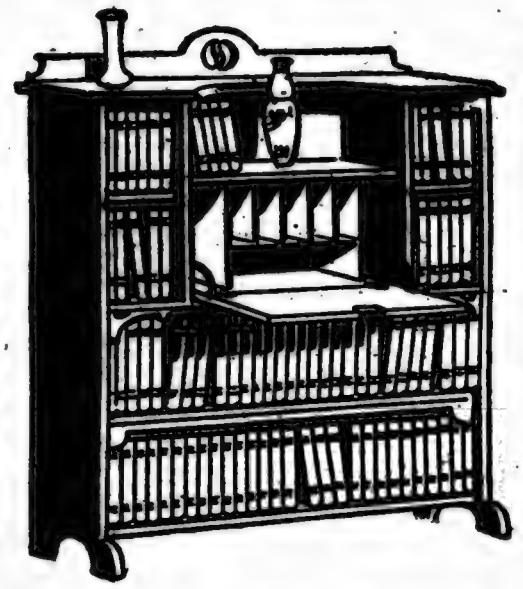

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SPIRITUALISTIC SEANCES.

BY OUR SPIRITUALIST REPORTER.

MRS. GRUNDY.

[We have added to our staff a Special Spiritualist Reporter, who each week will obtain and recount the opinions on questions of topical interest of some illustrious inhabitant of the astral plane.]

Having repeatedly heard it sta'ed of late that Mrs. Grundy is dead, I decided to endeavour to get into spiritual communication with her.

"Mrs. Grundy," I demanded.

"Wot?" cried the medium, "that ole geezer? You'll never git in touch wiv 'er 'cos she'd never let nobody touch."

"We'll see," I said, sternly. "Take your seat."

Within two minutes the medium's body was vacant of his already vacuous mind. The faint luminosity that irradiated his features was a trifle bluer than usual as a thin, querulous voice issued from his lips, saying:

"You wretch! How dare you summon me down again to this wicked world? And into a horrid man's body!"

"Pray be calm, madam," I said, soothingly. "I shall not detain you long. I would like to ask you a few questions regarding your present place of residence. Do you find that the morals of the inhabitants of the astral plane are any the better for having discarded their vile bodies? Or do you still find opportunities for the exercise of your well-known proclivities?"

"I am having a most unhappy time," moaned the spirit of Mrs. Grundy. "I am thrown into daily contact with all the most disreputable characters in history. The other day Cleopatra had the audacity to speak to me! I would have drawn my skirts aside and passed on, but—er, we—er, don't wear anything up there, you know — not even flesh and bones. We are all naked spirits, you see."

Here the medium shuddered.

"Exactly," I said. "Neat, so to speak. You must find it rather raw."

"And the sights one sees!" exclaimed Mrs. Grundy. "I positively detected Romeo in the act of kissing that hussy Juliet only this morning! They are inseparable."

"Do you see much of King Henry the Eighth?" I asked.

"Very little, I am glad to say," replied the spirit. "He is invariably surrounded by his wives—poor creatures!"

"So you have plenty of exercise for your notorious curiosity?" I remarked.

"Not so much as you would think," replied Mrs. Grundy. "You see, everything is carried on so openly. There is no opportunity for eavesdropping or peeping between blinds or round corners. And as for denouncing immodesty in dress and all that sort of thing, which formerly was my favourite recreation, it is quite out of the question. All the spirits are dressed alike in impalpable robes of thought, so that I cannot take exception to their attire without at the same time denouncing my own. I often look back with regret to the dear earthly days, when gossip, and slander, and scandal were my daily amusement; when I could ruin a reputation with a nod, and blast a life with a whispered word. How I envy the Rev. F. B. Meyer! What tales he will have to tell me when he reaches the astral plane. I long for his coming."

"Did I 'ear enybody say suthin' about neat spirits?" queried the medium, coming to.

A HOUSEWORKER

Backache, Nervousness, Neuritis.

The certainty of earning good wages, freedom from care and anxiety, with no more need to worry over being *unable to work*, is the boon Phosferine gave to Mrs. Elsworthy, thus permitting her to win a livelihood for herself and those dependant upon her. How thoroughly Phosferine enables hard-working people to help themselves is illustrated by the recovery of Mrs. Elsworthy, who was sleepless with agonising back pains and nervous weakness, and felt herself becoming helpless and useless until she found relief in Phosferine. In three days all the pains and sleeplessness had disappeared, and the energising potency of Phosferine prevented the hardship of having to abandon work, *even when medical skill had failed* to remedy her serious condition. That Phosferine is able to *keep people going*, and restore them to such excellent health as our correspondent now enjoys, is proof of its exceeding value to those dependant upon their own exertions for a living.

Totally Remedied.

Mrs. Ada Elsworthy, 3, Montpelier Road, Sutton, Surrey, writes: "I have obtained wonderful benefit from Phosferine. I was suffering the most fearful agony from pains in my side and back, and they were so bad that I often got no sleep at all, and had to sit up in bed. In the daytime I felt dazed and weak and most distressingly nervous. My head ached always. I could not eat or work, and *I thought I should have to give up.* The doctor stated I had neuritis, and gave me some medicine and told me I should be no better until I had a thorough rest and treatment at home in bed. I did not derive the least ease from his medicine. It would have been *very hard for me and those dependant upon me* to give up my situation, but *there appeared no alternative.* After I had taken two doses of Phosferine I began to feel relief, and by bedtime, which I dreaded, I was able to lie down and get a little sleep. I continued taking Phosferine, and in three days the pain had quite disappeared. I am now in excellent health, and I am very grateful for the good Phosferine has done me."—Nov. 1, 1911.

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To effectively introduce Adori into every household, a further set of Seasonable Prizes will be awarded to the senders of the prettiest three Christian names for a girl.

Imagine that you are selecting three Christian names for your own little girl. Which do you think would be the prettiest? Names such as Gertrude, Ivy, Jessie, Kittie, Lillie, Mary, Nellie, are all pretty, but you must know many such pretty or prettier names.

A committee of the prettiest actresses in London will act as judges of the competition, and prizes will be awarded in order of merit as they decide, and whose decision must be accepted as final. Winners' names will be posted direct to every customer.

The Competition will close during the next few weeks, and to ensure prompt delivery it is advisable that orders should be posted at once, as such a large number of orders were received at the last minute in response to our previous advertisement that delay in despatch was unavoidable.

RESULT OF FIRST PRIZE DISTRIBUTION.

THE FIRST NINE WINNERS ARE AS FOLLOWS:—

Mrs. Myra Langdon, "Octavia," Pegwell Bay, Ramsgate; Mrs. H. Forbes, Summerhill, Baleybogey, Co. Donegal; Mrs. Withington, The Vicarage, Great Ayton, S.O., Yorks; Nurse Hoskison, 20, Battersea Rise, Clapham Common; Miss Edna Kay, London and Manchester Oyster Bar, 6, Peter Street, Manchester; Mrs. W. P. Turner, Hornsey Road Baths, Holloway, N.; Miss F. Du Forde, "George the Fourth," George Street, E. Croydon; Miss Queenie Leighton, "Dick Whittington" Pantomime, Shakespeare Theatre, Clapham; Mrs. C. Hull, Police Station; Eriswell, Brandon, Suffolk.

600 Consolation Prizes have also been awarded, full list of which has been posted to every customer, and may be had on receipt of a stamped addressed envelope.

MISS QUEENIE LEIGHTON writes:—

DEAR SIR,—*I feel I must send you a little letter to tell you how delighted I am with the Adori Soap. It is delightful to use, and a bath with Adori is the most refreshing thing I know. Everyone who values their complexion owe you a debt of gratitude for introducing Adori Soap. I can hardly realise my good luck in winning the lovely white Fox Set. It is wonderful, and seems absurd that such a valuable thing can be won for 6d. A thousand thanks.*

NURSE HOSKISON. 20, Battersea Rise, Clapham Common, S.W., writes:—

DEAR SIRS,—*Thank you so much for the beautiful furs you have sent me, they are indeed grand, and I wish the Adori the best of luck, and I will do my very best to push it, as well as use it myself. I have enclosed other orders, as well as given forms away*

MRS. WITHINGTON, The Vicarage, Great Ayton, Yorks, writes:—

Mrs. Withington wishes to acknowledge with thanks the handsome set of furs which she received this morning from the Adori Manufacturing Company, as their third prize awarded to her in the name competition of December last. She encloses postal order for 3s., with six orders for further tablets of soap, and names for the new competition. On receiving the soap already ordered she will be glad to make it known among her numerous friends.

Post the order form below direct to ADORI COMPANY, KING'S HOUSE, KINGSWAY, LONDON, W.C.

JOHN BULL, Jan 20.

ORDER FORM.

I enclose Postal Order for sixpence, for which please send me (postage paid) one tablet of Adori Toilet Soap. I think the three prettiest Christian names for a girl are:

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Address _____

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One selection of 3 names is allowed for each tablet of Adori purchased.

Selections for additional tablets purchased may be written on plain paper.

Owing to the enormous number of replies received and the Xmas pressure, some delay was occasioned in delivery. We apologise, and the deliveries are taking place in rotation as rapidly as possible

THE DRAMA OF TO-DAY.

By M. Clement Scott.

Theatres and Music Halls.

Now you see what comes of meddling with matters outside your own particular province. When, several years ago, the theatrical managers kindly consented to permit music-hall proprietors to play sketches for a limited number of minutes—which they in reality had no more power to do than you or my dog—the humble music-hall managers bowed and scraped their thanks and couldn't find words expressive enough of their gratitude. But the authorities in office merely smiled and said to themselves, "Bide awhile and we shall see!" What has consequently happened? Persistent prosecutions have been going on ever since the T.M.'s were drawn into such a foolish position, and the result is that for the present at any rate the Lord Chamberlain, through Sir Douglas Dawson's persuasion, has granted play licences to all the halls that come within the area of his jurisdiction. Oh! foolish theatre managers, if you had only had the courage to declare your inability to aid and abet an act that has constantly been proved to be illegal, how different would the song be that you are singing to-day! Not that I have anything but praise to say for the introduction of little plays into music-hall programmes—I have the greatest admiration for them. Indeed, through the courtesy of Mr. Oswald Stoll, I produced one of the most sensational ones myself at the London Coliseum. It is merely the inflated idea the theatre manager has of himself that I desire to comment upon.

At the Savoy Theatre.

"Where the Rainbow Ends" is the most delightful play for children that London has ever seen. It contains just the right vein of partriotism, it is full of fairy lore, and the acting of the small fry is perfection. Hear the ripple of baby laughter as the little ones watch the wicked uncle being knocked about by the elves and sprites in the haunted wood! Watch their pretty faces gleaming with pleasure as King George overcomes the big green dragon, and the captured babies hoist the flag of St. George in place of the demon's furling banner. Through the whole of this beautiful fairly story you can trace the master hand of Charles Hawtrey who has produced with such effect Messrs. Clifford Mills and John Ramsey's fanciful play founded on the grand old English legend. Nobody should miss seeing "Where the Rainbow Ends."

"Nightbirds."

America has not been slow to rush for our great success, Johann Strauss's opera bouffe, no fewer than three enterprising gentlemen having made offers for the Lyric piece, but the brothers Schubert have secured the prize. If "The Chocolate Soldier" was great, then Mr. Michael Faraday can pat himself on the back, for "Nightbirds" is greater still. I believe the production cost over ten thousand pounds, and Mr. Faraday, who personally rehearsed the show, spared no expense whatever. The advance booking is enormous, and the curtain rises now at 8.15 instead of 8. The Empire ballet, headed by that charming dancer, Phyllis Bedells, of course proves one of the attractions of the performance. As for the quaint comedian, Mr. Bascombe, he gets droller and droller every time. The enchanting waltz melody proves conclusively that Leo Fall was merely a disciple of the renowned Waltz King!

OUR "BISCUIT" PRIZES.

HALF-A-CROWN FOR EVERY "BISCUIT" PUBLISHED.

In view of the difficulty of awarding the prizes which we have offered to children for the smartest reasons why our "Biscuits" are allocated—so many clever young competitors sending in solutions of practically equal merit—we have decided to vary the scheme by giving 2s. 6d. to the sender, whether adult or child, of every "Biscuit" published. Entrants for this competition are reminded that "Biscuits" are not awarded for mere misprints, unless of a humorous or extraordinary nature. Should the same "Biscuit" be forwarded by more than one competitor, preference will be given to the reader whose letter is first opened. No coupons are required. In forwarding newspaper cuttings, sufficient must be sent to identify the name of the paper and date of issue.

Below we give the last list of prize-winners under the old scheme—in respect to the issue dated January 6.

First Prize, 10s., to Doris Mann, 13, Swinburne Street, Holderness Road, Hull.

Prizes of 5s. each to D. Waterhouse, 79, Parkside Road, West Bowling, Bradford; Walter Holmes, 21, Coniston Road, Sheffield; Redvers B. Cordukes, Kelfield, Riccall, York; May Carr, 29, Lessingham Avenue, Tooting.

"SITUATIONS GUARANTEED."

EXPLODING AN ADDISONIAN ADAGE.

The daily Press has lately been devoting attention to the worth of the "guarantees" of situations which are so often flourished about by schools. Some cautious spirits advocate the getting of such undertakings embodied in a written contract, stamping them, and then bringing an action at law in the event of the non-fulfilment by the pedagogue of his part of the bargain, though a moment's reflection should surely be enough to show that people who make such rash promises are not likely to be worth powder and shot.

The only efficient guarantee of employment that can be given is that stamped upon and into a person by thorough practical instruction. We recently paid a visit to Clark's College in Chancery Lane, and were shown some of the students at work in the model business carried on there. The Commercial side of Clark's Central College and its numerous branches forms a sort of huge Whiteley's—the only difference being that trade is carried on with one another, and that its various departments are located in the numerous suburban branches of the institution instead of under one roof. Each branch carries on a separate business, into the intricacies of which students are initiated by an expert in the particular trade. The branch carrying on an upholstering business would, on receipt of an order, necessarily have to obtain through other trading branches essential adjuncts, such as wood, silk, etc. Knowledge of the whole of the machinery of business is thus acquired in a practical manner, from the receipt of the customer's order to the dispatch of the receipted bill, the book-keeping entries, correspondence, and thousand and one details being carried out as though the transaction was an actual one. All the latest labour-saving appliances are installed—calculating and duplicating machines, card-indices, and the numerous ingenious devices which have revolutionised old-fashioned business methods. A youth familiar with such modern aids is valuable to his employer from the very outset—he affords a remarkable contrast to the one who has left school and entered an office absolutely ignorant even of the way to copy a letter or the place where a stamp should be put on its envelope.

Business men have for long had to suffer inconvenience and loss of valuable time owing to having to train their junior staff personally for a year or two. Such institutions as Clark's College have caused them to strike against this expensive and irritating process—expensive because, even though the salary such incompetents "earned" was small, it was yet altogether out of proportion to the work done. Thoroughly trained young men and women need no guarantee of employment—despite Addison, they *can* command it, as the books of Clark's College show, there being a keen competition for students who bear the institution's hall-mark.

WINNERS IN FOOTBALL COMPETITION NO. 1.

We are a little disappointed that no one has actually won the £1,000 prize outright in connection with our Football Competition No. 1, but there is no reason whatever why such should be the case with Competition No. 2. Let it be clearly understood that we are most anxious that the £1,000 should be claimed, and we shall be only too pleased to pay it. As, however, this was not the case in the first Competition, we have had to consider carefully the claims for the Consolation Prize, and have ultimately decided to divide it between:—

Mr. THOMAS DAVIS, of 29, New England Street, Brighton; and

Mr. E. GREENWOOD, of 2, Knoyle Street, New Cross, London,

to each of whom we have awarded £25. Both Mr. Davis and Mr. Greenwood correctly gave the names of the three matches in which the highest number of goals were scored, and both competitors gave the correct result of Chelsea v. Leeds City. Each also gave another correct forecast as regards one side, Mr. Davis giving Swindon three goals, and Mr. Greenwood Sunderland five.

Many other competitors got extremely near, and all we can say is that we wish them good luck with Competition No. 2.

RHODESIA EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT COMPANY, LIMITED.

An extraordinary general meeting of the Rhodesia Exploration and Development Company was held on Thursday last at Salisbury House, Mr. Walter Forbes presiding. He stated that the profit of the company for the year, including £22,863 brought forward, was £223,725, from which they paid a dividend of 10 per cent. on August 31st. Having explained the reasons which led up to the proposal before the meeting and referred to the negotiations with the Gold Fields Rhodesian Development Company, he expressed the directors' belief, after a very careful examination of the assets of the Gold Fields Rhodesian Company, that the "deal" was an absolutely fair and round one. They believed that the joining together of the two strongest companies in Rhodesia could not but be of benefit not only to both sets of shareholders, but also for the benefit of Rhodesia itself. He concluded by proposing the resolution.

Mr. H. G. Latilla, in seconding the motion, thought that the shareholders had made a good "deal." It was one obviously which the Consolidated Gold Fields were anxious to make; they paid £2 10s. 7½d. per share for the shares in this company only with one object—namely, of making a profit out of it. Had they dealt on the basis of market values, plus, of course, book cost in those cases where there were no market quotations, he would not have recommended shareholders to go into the fusion as he did now. Within the last day or so he had received a cablegram from Sir Abe Bailey saying that he was retiring from business. In any event, under an agreement by which they acquired certain interests, Sir Abe Bailey was bound for a period of seven years not to compete with them. Mr. Latilla, in reply to questions, stated that Dr. Sauer now held 1,690 shares in the company. The name of the proposed new company would, he understood, be the Gold Fields Rhodesian Development Company.

The Chairman then put the resolution to the meeting, and declared it carried unanimously.

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This is not a wild statement made by an irresponsible individual. It is an absolute genuine and unvarnished fact, which will gladly be vouched for by scores of cured people not only in Great Britain, but also on the Continent and abroad. When I say cure, I do not simply mean that I supply a truss, pad, or other appliance which is to be worn continually by sufferers in order to keep their Ruptures in place. I mean that my system enables the ruptured to discard all such irritating encumbrances and make the part as well and strong as it was before the rupture occurred.

My Book, copy of which I will gladly send you free, explains fully how you may cure yourself, without pain or inconvenience, by this system. I discovered it after I had suffered myself for years with double rupture, which the doctors said was incurable. It cured me, and I felt that it was my bounden duty to give the whole world at large the benefit of my discovery, with the result that for many years now I have been curing rupture in all parts of the globe.

You will probably be interested to receive with the Free Book and Test, signed testimonials from a few out of the many cured patients. Do not waste time and money in trying to obtain elsewhere what my discovery offers, as you will only be incurring disappointment. Just sit down and fill in the coupon at the foot of this announcement, post it to me, and the Book, Copy of my Guarantee, Test and the particulars you need will reach you promptly.

Please send no money whatever.

FREE TEST COUPON.

CAPT. W. A. COLLINGS AND SONS (Box 11C),
32, Theobald's Road, London, W.C.

DEAR SIRS,—Send me Free the information and Test, that I may cure my Rupture.

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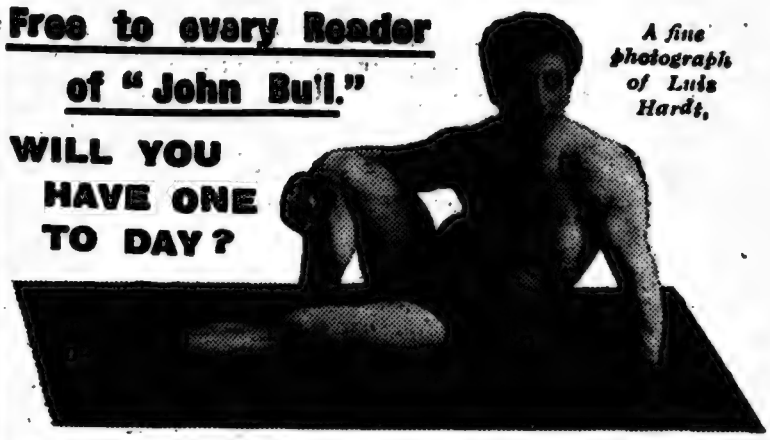
That has enabled Luis Hardt to earn the SALARY of a CABINET MINISTER.

Free to every Reader of "John Bull."

WILL YOU HAVE ONE TO DAY?



A fine photograph of Luis Hardt.

MOST REMARKABLE OFFER EVER MADE IN A NEWSPAPER.

Read what Luis Hardt, who has made the money, says.

Do you want to earn more money than you do to-day?

Do you want to be one of the healthful, forceful, attractive, dominating men, whose health and strength enables them to make a success of the business of life? If so, read what the famous Luis Hardt says about how he rose to the enviable position he occupies to-day, and write in at once for the gift of Seven Days' absolutely Free Use of a pair of Sandow's Spring Grip Dumb-bells.

This wonderful little appliance, PRODUCED AND USED BY THE GREAT SANDOW HIMSELF, will be sent to you free by return post.

Use it like many of the most successful men of the day—follow the special directions drawn up by Sandow for the guidance of the users of his famous Grip Dumb-bells, and see during a day or two the difference they will make to you.

We, Sandow's Grip Dumb Bell Co., will send you these wonderful Spring Grip Dumb-bells entirely as a FREE TRIAL GIFT for seven days, Post Free, and you are under no cost or obligation whatsoever.

With every pair will be sent a Booklet of Exercises, showing in detail the way to perform each of the original exercises of the Sandow System, also a Chart showing how many times each exercise should be done daily by the average man or youth, together with hints on how, when, or where to exercise, how to take a cold bath, and other useful information.

The Chart contains One Month's Initiatory Course of Exercises, suitable for the average man or youth, and it has been carefully prepared by Mr. Sandow for presentation and use with every pair of the Grip Dumb-bells.

Hear what Mr. Luis Hardt says:—

"Dear Sirs,

"It may or it may not interest you to know that I cured myself of a weak chest by following your system of Physical Culture, and not only achieved perfect health, but such abnormal strength that I am now earning my living on the Music Halls by performing feats of strength and showing my development acquired.

"Solely by your System of Physical Culture and using your Appliance, having appeared at every large town in Great Britain and Ireland, I would like to lay particular stress on the value of your Grip Dumb-bells, which I consider the very finest aid to Physical Culture ever invented, and I would not be without them. Previous to my performances every evening, I always warm up with a pair of Grip Dumb-bells, going through the Sandow System of Physical Culture.

"(Signed) LUIS HARDT.

WHY NOT TRY A PAIR YOURSELF?

You need not keep the Dumb-bells after seven days unless you wish, but if, after using these Dumb-bells for SEVEN DAYS ENTIRELY FREE, you decide to keep them, send a deposit of 2s. 6d. and promise to pay the remainder of the price at the rate of 2s. 6d. per month, which only means the small sum of ONE PENNY PER DAY, in order to gain the strength and stamina that commands success.

CUT OUT, FILL IN AND SEND THIS COUPON TO-DAY.

Sandow's Grip Dumb-bells Free-by-Post Coupon.

Room 57, Sandow Hall, Bury St., London, W.C. Date.....1912.

Gentlemen,—Please send me by return one pair of your Spring Grip Dumb-bells,

GENTLEMEN'S .....12/6—Suitable for age 18 and upwards.
YOUTHS' .....10/6—Suitable for age 14 and 18.
LADIES' .....10/6—Suitable for age 16 and upwards.

Please cross out sizes not required.

This order is given on condition that after seven days' free trial, should I decide not to keep the Dumb-bells I may return them immediately direct to Sandow Hall, and no charge whatsoever will be made.

FREE TRIAL. SIGNED.....Age .....

ADDRESS .....

JOHN BULL'S LETTER BAG.

[The EDITOR replies to, and has a chat with, some of his numerous correspondents.]

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.—Will readers, when forwarding cuttings from newspapers, take care that in each case a sufficient portion is sent to identify the name of the paper and the date of issue?

CORRESPONDENTS, when referring to previous communications which they may have addressed to us, should always mention the nature of the matter therein referred to. Owing to the great increase in the number of ENQUIRIES *received consequent upon the abnormal growth in our circulation, it is no longer possible to answer them all in "Letter Bag,"* AND ONLY THOSE OF GENERAL INTEREST *will be noticed. The Editor will, of course, still be grateful for information, "biscuit" material, newspaper cuttings, etc.*

AUTHORS and ARTISTS *submitting MSS. and drawings for consideration must write name and address upon the back of their work. The Editor cannot accept any responsibility for the safe custody of MSS., etc., so forwarded, but will endeavour to return unaccepted work* WHEN STAMPED, ADDRESSED ENVELOPES ARE ATTACHED TO THE MANUSCRIPT. ALL MATTER SUBMITTED MUST BE ORIGINAL UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED. *The most suitable lengths for articles and stories are about 750 words (one column), or 1,500 words (a page).*

The EDITOR *cannot express any opinion upon the value of postage stamps, old china, pictures, coins, books, etc.*

CORRESPONDENTS ARE REQUESTED NOT TO SEND ORIGINAL CERTIFICATES, TESTIMONIALS, ETC., *as, though every effort is made for their safe custody, they are liable to be mislaid. Copies only of such documents should be forwarded in the first instance.*

E. O. (Exeter).—We have Ramsay MacDonald well under observation, and shall deal with him fully in due course.

H. (Camden Town) and others.—We must not say more about our millionth copy than repeat our promise to duly announce its distinctive number, and to invite the holder to come and discuss the weather with us. The law *must* be obeyed.

R. D. W. (W. Hartlepool).—Used British postage stamps, unless they are rare or old, are of no value except as waste paper at so much a ton. We know of no institution that takes them—that is a long-exploded myth. Send the foreign stamps to a dealer. Plenty of them advertise.

"DISGUSTED" (Huddersfield).—You do not mention the name of the firm that has aroused your ire, so we cannot very well "show them up." We trust you will appreciate our little difficulty.

A. C. (Beeston) has given us a shock. He tells us he has "a formula that will sweep England and Germany clean out of existence." We hope he will be careful not to let it loose. Little things like that ought not to be left lying about.

"VICTIM" (Bexhill) is complaining that the Post Office authorities have discontinued the use on letters of the postmark denoting the hour of despatch. We are afraid "Victim" has been backing horses.

F. B. (Oxford) tells us that the American Rhodes scholars are good payers, whatever the other nationalities may be. The Yankees like to be "cracked up," so we are gratifying them for once by publishing this.

W. H. P. (Rochester).—We believe old war medals may be bought from Messrs. Spink and Son, of Piccadilly, London, and at most pawnbrokers. *The Lay Lawyer* will be procurable at all bookstalls. The first number will appear very soon.

"SCOTTY" (Edinburgh).—You ask us six distinct questions. If you will let us know which is the most vitally important to you, we will endeavour to answer it.

C. F. B. (Redcar).—We know nothing against Percy Coutts and Co., Colonial Agents, of 235, High Holborn, London, W.C., but we would warn you against paying fees to employment agents until you have secured a *bona-fide* situation through them.

H. L. (Sydney) tells us emigrants are not wanted in New South Wales, although the *Sydney Morning Herald* teems with advertisements for labour.

R. H. B. (W. Australia), on the other hand, has been lucky, and tells us that the W. Australian bushman is a fine, free fellow, and welcomes immigrants.

"NOT ESQUIRE" (Reading).—The term "Esquire" has now become by usage merely a title of courtesy, and to our mind when a parish magazine refers to one churchwarden as "Esq." and to another as "Mr." it savours of snobbery. We said so in our issue of December 23rd last, and we unhesitatingly and emphatically say it again.

"DISGUSTED" (Ireland), who was so disgusted that he forgot to give his address, seems to be worried about our views concerning Home Rule. When Parliament re-opens, and the promised (or threatened) Home Rule Bill is introduced, he will see our views of it expressed in no uncertain terms. Meantime, he should endeavour to keep his hair on.

H. J. S. (Colchester).—You are mistaken if you imagine that we despise the Opposition. As a matter of fact, as it now has a Business man for a leader, we feel as much respect for it as we are capable of feeling for any body of "Party" politicians.

G. P. (Ebbw Vale) sends a cutting from the *Cardiff Evening News*, reporting a case of assault by a navvy upon a young woman, and stating that "without a word of warning he hit her on the nose, which bled, and ran away." Perhaps if he had only given a word of warning it would not have run away. One never nose.

"WORKHOUSE INMATE" asks what the paupers "really did say when the Master walked through the marble halls and wished them a 'Merry Christmas, boys.'" The answer is, "The same to you, sir."

A. J. A.—It is philanthropic of you to suggest that the gas companies should supply gas through penny-in-the-slot meters at a cheaper rate; but the idea of gas companies is that the poor should put their pennies in, so that the stockholders may take their pounds out.

A. H. H. (Crete).—So Miss Weston is now encouraging temperance amongst sailors by comparing them, in *Ashore and Afloat*, to

"Six little puppy dogs, feeling very ill."

We have always looked upon Jack as a "jolly dog," not as a sick puppy.

F. W. M. (Southampton) sends us an advertisement offering pheasants for sale, "on account of ill-health." We suppose they have got the pip, and it makes them feel cheap.

J. L. (Birmingham) wants to know whether the letters B. M. on the new coins mean "Birmingham Mint," or are they the initials of the designer? The last surmise is correct. Although Brum provides most of us with our screws, the only *coins* made in that city to-day are "duds." "B. M.," of course, might also indicate Bad Money.

"POSER" (Brixton) asks us to suggest a "poser" in the shape of a question relating to the Bible, so that he may flummox the curate in charge of his Bible class, who has invited questions. Ask him which English railway is mentioned in the Old Testament—or who was Cain's wife.

F. H. (Sevenoaks) points out that there is no communication between passengers and guard on some of the L.B.S.C. Railway Company's "Elevated Electric" trains, although the carriages are built on the old single-compartment plan. When a few murders have been committed on the system perhaps the Board of Trade will look into the matter.

F. S. (Hamilton).—Several readers have sent us the report from the *Glasgow Daily Record* which states that a temperance advocate, accused of drunkenness, "made a strong appeal for leniency, taking *oats* profusely that he would reform." Wild oats, no doubt.

R. E. H. (Stratford) proves, to his own satisfacton at least, that Lloyd George is not the only Beast of Revelations, but that Asquith and Dillon may also claim the distinction. If this be so, the sooner the seat of Government is transferred to the Zoo the better.

G. R. H. (Anglesey) states that about three months ago he sent some second-hand goods which he wished to dispose of to Hartley and Co., 202, London Road, Liverpool, having seen their advertisement in the *Liverpool Courier*. He has not yet had a reply from them. Perhaps he will when they see this.

MR. GEORGE H. EVANS (Steward of the Odiham and District Conservative Club) thanks us for our recent remarks in reference to that appointment. He says that they were so convincing that "the hat was passed round the billiard-room this morning on behalf of Odiham's underpaid steward; result, a present of 10s." Excellent.

MR. ROWLAND WORMELL, of Roydon, upon whose letter to the Press as to the virtues of the Gaekwar of Baroda we recently commented, again takes up the cudgels on behalf of the Prince, but adds that "it is not necessary to be in sympathy with Keir Hardie's blatant coolyism to be an admirer of the Gaekwar." We are glad to hear that.

G. D. P. (London) calls our attention to the statement of Keir Hardie in his recent article on the Durbar, that a crab "is an animal skilled in the art of walking backwards," and wishes us to point out that it's a crustacean and walks sideways. He also wishes us to speculate further as to Keir's confusion on the subject of the crab, but this is not a naturalist's journal.

"FAIR TO MASTER AND MAN" (Birmingham) suggests that if the coal merchant, with his exorbitant profits, was eliminated, and mine owners sold their coals direct to the consumers, it would then be possible to increase the miners' wages without increasing the cost of production. The idea is worth consideration.

A. B. (Harwich) wants to know who it was that gave men-o'-wars men bonbons for Christmas boxes. We imagine it must have been Miss Weston. She appears to regard our Jack Tars as so many infants.

C. O'N. (Brixton).—Two blacks do not make a white, especially when one of the "blacks" is a white girl. The purity of the race must be preserved, and though some white men forget themselves when abroad, that is no reason why we should condone similar conduct on the part of blacks in this country.

"A VICTIM" (Dalston, N.E.) states that Griffiths and Griffiths, moneylenders, of 18, Red Lion Street, Holborn, who advertise "No security required. Loans granted immediately," and who we recently exposed in JOHN BULL, charged him 2s. 6d. as a preliminary fee, *and* 1s. *extra for a surety form*, but refused him a loan at the finish. Messrs. Griffith now inform us that they are discontinuing taking preliminary fees.

"KHYBER" (Glasgow) wants to know what we are to do after we have sunk the German fleet. "Will the war then be finished?" he asks. We should then have to invade their country, and could we do so—he "*don't think*." We never thought of that.

S. G. B. (Streatham Hill) asks why medical men so frequently prescribe German preparations such as veronal, antipyrin, etc., and says "are there not enough drugs in the British Pharmacopœia?" We should have thought so.

R. M. M. (Kirkby Stephen) also protests against "the foreign mineral waters fraud"—most of which are made in England; and also against the extortionate prices charged for surgical appliances. Who wouldn't be an editor?

S. H. (Buenos Ayres).—Thanks for cutting re "King (Lloyd) George." How are the English girls getting along?

W. G. M. (Brockley) thinks the failure of the Territorial force is due entirely to the ugly uniforms they have to wear. "Give the boys brilliant red or yellow," he says. That may be all right for the park, but it would make a fine target for the enemy.

"PHIZ" (Oldham) asks why members of the Royal Family patronise certain patent medicines. For the same reason, we suppose, as we take "Brainine."—because it does us good. But our correspondent's *nom-de-plume* suggests a splendid remedy.

THE TOWN CLERK OF ST. ALBANS writes us, in reference to the "Open Letter" addressed to the Mayor of that city, that the case referred to was dealt with by the County Justices, as it arose at a village two miles distant from St. Albans, within the area of the St. Albans division of the county, and the city authorities have no control over the police in such area. We are very glad to receive this exculpation of the St. Albans force.

A. W. C. (Catford) and a hundred other shop assistants write protesting against the statement made by the branch secretary of the National Amalgamated Union of Shop Assistants, Warehousemen and Clerks, that employers never pay salaries to their assistants during sickness. They all say that their personal experience is to the contrary.

[We regret we are obliged to hold over a large number of replies.]

BULL'S EYES.

NOTES OF INTERROGATION:—
How does China like Russia's "taking ways"?
Aren't the Y.M.C.A. clocks a bit behind?
Is the Salvation Army motto "Get on, or get out"?
Isn't Stockton again suffering from Colley-wobbles?
Is "There *ain't* a tavern in the town" the Letchworth version?
Shouldn't the Christian Scientist be made accountable for his "*in*-actions"?
Is the coal-miners' motto "Strike while the weather's cold"?
Is China to be allowed to "go to pieces"?
Is the increased demand for eggs in Germany due to the elections?
Will the music-halls have more or less licence now?

Some match-boxes are being made with nursery rhymes printed on the outside. Striking light verse!

Several Boy Scouts have contributed to Sir William Treloar's cripples' fund. Perhaps they consider it a good investment.

A review has an article by its editor, "We have come down to a shilling." We hope it isn't as bad as all that.

"Gloves made to deceive," says a heading. But most of them are kid.

King Manoel has seen "The Miracle." But it won't bring his throne back.

By now most people are done with *Parties*—and are getting to *Business*.

A fire was extinguished at a picture palace by a disguised fireman. But most of them only work when playing.

Many journals are weaving yarns about the cotton trouble.

Mme. Sarah Bernhardt denies that she is to be married again. But she is always open to an engagement.

"Lords accept the Bill," we read. But they won't honour it.

"16,000 Doctors Pledged," says a heading. Who has taken them in?

"There are no men in the other planets," says an astronomer. But there's Mars, of course.

"Some people believe that the only equipment necessary for the author is a stylo pen and paper," says Mr. Sydney Buxton. They forget the other style-o.

An abandoned church at Glasgow was used by the postal authorities during the Christmas season. But aren't all churches sorting offices?

The John Bull League.

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO MEMBERS.

In view of the forthcoming issue of the second annual report, the General Secretary will feel obliged if members who have changed their addresses during the past six months will kindly at once notify him.

BRANCH REPORTS.

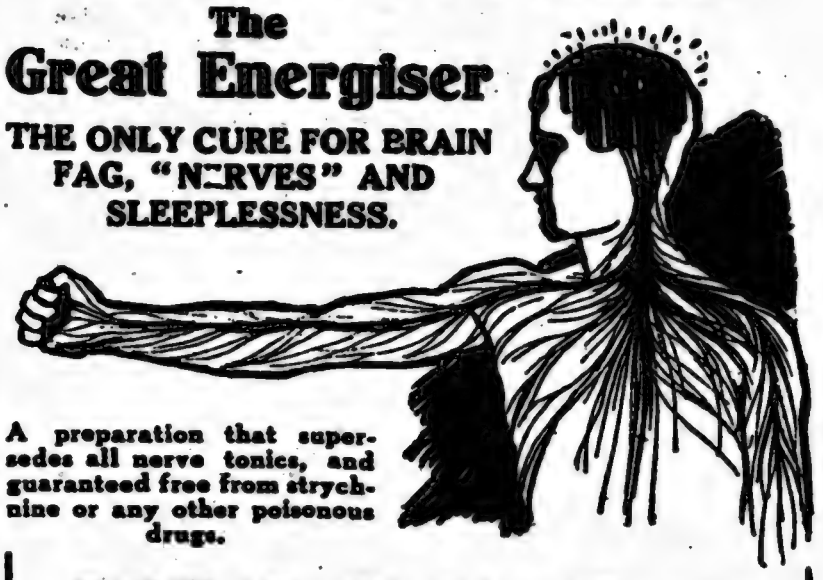
LEEDS.—The smoking concert arranged by this branch was held at the Golden Lion Hotel on the 5th January. The attendance was rather disappointing, but the inclemency of the weather must have had the effect of keeping many away. However, what the audience lacked in numbers they made up for in enthusiasm, and under the genial chairmanship of Mr. R. Knight everything went off splendidly. An excellent programme was submitted and contributed to by Messrs. Fred E. Bucknall, Charles Todd, Bert Sharpe, H. Ferrell, A. D. Flynn, Jack Allerton, and S. P. Mountain (accompanist). The Chairman in the course of his address delivered a scathing criticism of the anomalies and abuses which obtain under the present Party system, and cited some examples bearing on both Parliamentary and municipal politics. His remarks met with ready acceptance from the audience. The committee trust that members will make a point of attending all meetings and keeping in close and constant touch with the work of the branch.

BIRMINGHAM.—Will members please note that a grand smoking concert will be held at the White Horse, Congreve Street, on Friday, February 2nd? The following artistes amongst others have kindly promised to appear:—Messrs. Job Cooper (the Midland tenor), A. E. Smith, Jesmond Dene, Harry Crisp, Harry Smart, Frank Skett, J. R. Linden, "The Wispers," W. G. King (elocutionist), and three old friends of the branch—viz., Sidney Albert, J. H. Nicholson (violin), and Bert Fores (in his Dickens character sketches). The accompanist will be Mr. A. J. Owen, Mus. Bac., A.R.C.O. A whist drive will be held at the Pitman Restaurant, Corporation Street, on Wednesday, February 14th, admission 1s. each, and tickets for same may be obtained from Messrs. C. L. Kay, 155, Somerville Road, Small Heath; J. Parker Crees, 302, St. Benedict's Road, Small Heath; C. T. Wilson, 363, St. Benedict's Road, Small Heath; Victor Allport, 3, Turville Road, Handsworth; J. T. Savage, 92, Walford Road, Sparkbrook; E. H. Hodgkinson, 408, Slade Road, Erdington; A. R. Tye, 87, Hillaries Road, Gravelly Hill; A. Rowe, 219, Trinity Road, Aston; Norman Owen, The Primroses, Four Oaks; and the Central Secretary, Arthur F. Taylor, 3, Woodfield Road, King's Heath; or the Central Restaurant, Corporation Street.

BRAININE

The Great Energiser

THE ONLY CURE FOR BRAIN FAG, "NERVES" AND SLEEPLESSNESS.



A preparation that supersedes all nerve tonics, and guaranteed free from strychnine or any other poisonous drugs.

BRAININE—Little pellets which are swiftly, surely, and permanently curing many thousands of distressing nervous complaints.

BRAININE is perhaps the most wonderfully effective preparation for the alleviation and cure of nervous complaints which has ever come before the public, and is quite distinct and far in advance of any of the so-called remedies which have previously been placed upon the market. Its unique success even in the most acute nervous cases may be largely attributed to the fact that its function is to build up and revitalise the brain tissues which so actively govern the whole nervous system.

Some Convincing Testimony.

Mr. HORATIO BOTTOMLEY, M.P., after a practical test of BRAININE, says:

"You may certainly give me as a reference to the remarkable qualities of BRAININE. Most of my clerks now take it regularly, as well as myself—and I think we get through more work than any other office in London, AND ARE NEVER TIRED. Why don't you advertise it?"

December, 1911.

A LEADING HOSPITAL NURSE says:—"Under doctor's orders I am now using BRAININE when on duty, and the effect is really wonderful. Most of my 'convalescents' take it—and are loud in its praise."

December, 1911.

MR. C. writes:—"My wife has already derived great benefit from the BRAININE pellets. Kindly forward me another box, by return, for which I enclose 1s. 1½d."

December, 1911.

Mr. R. writes:—"Please forward me a box of BRAININE pellets. I find that they are all that you claim for them, and am, therefore, strongly recommending them to my friends."

December, 1911.

The writer, having derived great benefit from BRAININE, would be obliged if more could be forwarded by return. Enclosed please find P.O. for 1s. 1½d." Yours gratefully, J. F.

January, 1912.

"Gentlemen,—I received your samples of BRAININE, and I think—well, one can fancy a good deal, but I seem to feel improved. Kindly send me another 1s. 1½d. packet. I am going to give them a further trial. Also kindly state if I can get the same at Boots', Ltd., or where in this district."

Yours faithfully, MRS. M.

January, 1912.

"Dear Sirs,—First box splendid; please send me two as per JOHN BULL coupon." R. G.

January, 1912.

"Gentlemen,—Kindly forward me another box of your BRAININE, for which I enclose 1s. 1½d. in stamps. I have been taking your BRAININE for a short time only, and must say it has a wonderful effect." Yours faithfully, S. J.

January, 1912.

"Gentlemen,—Please find herewith enclosed 2s. 3d. for three boxes of your BRAININE as per your offer. I intend sticking to them. Have finished taking first box.

Yours faithfully, Miss A.

Your Chemist or Stores can obtain BRAININE for you from their wholesale houses. If, however, there is any difficulty or delay in getting it please cut out this order form and post direct to us, with remittance.

To THE BRAININE COMPANY, 2, Marsham Street, Westminster, London, S.W.

Please forward me a supply of BRAININE, for which I enclose P.O. 1s. 1½d.

Name .....

Address (in full) .....

State whether Mr., Mrs., or Miss .....

Our Weekly Football Competition.

£1,000 for THREE Results. £1,000

Again Made Easier. No Entrance Fee Whatever. £52 10s. at least must be won each week.

The names of the winners in Competition No. 1 will be found on page 90.

We are determined to make you admit that our £1,000 Football Competition is easier and simpler far than any similar contest of Football skill.

That you may have guidance in your selections we shall henceforth give the goals scored in the corresponding games last season. Of course in instances where competing clubs did not meet each other in season 1910-1911 a blank space is left. Surely this is giving you a key to a golden lock.

All you have to do is to glance at the Fixture List and make up your mind which two clubs competing against each other in Division I. of the English League, which two competing against each other in Division II., and which two competing against each other in the Southern League (Division I.) will aggregate the greatest number of goals in their particular match between them. Thus you are called upon to give the results, that is, the actual number of goals scored in only three matches, one match in each division.

If your estimate is the only one correct you pocket £1,000. If your estimate proves to be the one most nearly accurate

You Must Win £52 10 0.

In the corresponding games last season the following clubs totalled between them the highest number of goals in their respective Leagues.

BURY 4	v.	MIDDLESBRO' 2	.. Total 6.
HULL 5	v.	BARNSLEY 1	.. .. Total 6.
WATFORD 3	v.	MILLWALL 3	.. .. Total 6.

Were you to give these results and history repeated itself you would win £1,000 unless you tied with some other competitor, and then, of course, the Prize would be divided.

Were your forecast, whilst not absolutely correct, the nearest to the correct figures, you would win the Prize of Fifty Guineas. And what do you risk? Absolutely nothing!

If you are looking for guidance let us recommend to you the views of the great Football Writer and Expert, "McW.," who contributes "Football Favourites" in another column. Each week, too, you will find "Football Fancies" in "Lotinga's Weekly."

Do not run away with the idea that we do not wish you to win the Mammoth Prize:

The sooner the £1,000 is won the better pleased we shall be.

We realise the advertising value of such a happening.

Remember, in conclusion, that you must select clubs actually competing against each other on Saturday, January 27th.

NO ENTRANCE FEE.

No. 4. COUPON for Matches to be Played SATURDAY, JANUARY 27th.

The two opposing clubs in the English League (Div. I.), the two in Div. II. and the two in the Southern League which will total the largest number of goals between them, and the goals which each will score, will be as follows:-

ENGLISH LEAGUE (Div. I.)	Goals		Goals	ENGLISH LEAGUE (Div. II.)	Goals		Goals	SOUTHERN LEAGUE (Div. I.)	Goals		Goals
Blackburn R. (3)	....	v. Totnm H. (0)	....	Birmingham (1)	....	v. Stockport C. (3)	....	Norwich (1)	....	v. Brighton (1)	....
Bolton W. (—)	....	v. P. H. E. (—)	....	Blackpool (1)	....	v. Fulham (2)	....	Leyton (—)	....	v. Stoke (—)	....
Bradford City (1)	....	v. Oldham A. (2)	....	Bristol City (—)	....	v. Leeds C. (—)	....	Coventry (1)	....	v. Luton (1)	....
Bury (4)	....	v. Middlsbro' (2)	....	Chelsea (2)	....	v. Leicester F. (0)	....	Crystal P. (0)	....	v. Northmton (0)	....
Everton (0)	....	v. Aston Villa (1)	....	Clapton O. (3)	....	v. Wolver. W. (1)	....	Southampton (0)	....	v. Swindon (4)	....
Manchester C. (2)	....	v. Newcastle (0)	....	Glossop (0)	....	v. Bradford (1)	....	Plymouth (1)	....	v. Bristol R. (2)	....
Sheffield W. (1)	....	v. Notts C. (3)	....	Grimsby T. (—)	....	v. Burnley (—)	....	Reading (—)	....	v. West Ham (—)	....
Sunderland (1)	....	v. Mnchstr U. (2)	....	Huddersfield (0)	....	v. Derby C. (3)	....	Watford (3)	....	v. Millwall (3)	....
W. Brom A. (—)	....	v. Liverpool (—)	....	Hull City (5)	....	v. Barnsley (1)	....	New Brighton (1)	....	v. Q.P.Rngers 0)	....
Woolwich A. (0)	....	v. Sheffield U. (0)	....	Notts Forest (—)	....	v. Gainsboro (—)	....	Exeter (0)	....	v. Brentford (0)	....

The figures in brackets show the number of goals scored in the corresponding games last season.
Only one Match in each League must be selected on any single coupon.
I agree to abide by the decision published in JOHN BULL and "Lotinga's Weekly," and I enter this Competition on that clear understanding.

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

Should no one succeed in estimating all the particulars correctly, then £52 10s. will be awarded each and every week to the competitor whose estimate is most nearly correct. In the event of a tie the £52 10s. will be divided.

CONDITIONS TO BE OBSERVED.

1. The decision published in JOHN BULL and "Lotinga's Weekly" must be accepted as final and legally binding, and you enter only on that clear understanding.
2. Your estimate must be written only on a JOHN BULL Coupon, or on the Coupon to be found in "Lotinga's Weekly."
3. £1,000 will be awarded to the competitor (or competitors) sending an absolutely correct estimate. If no competitor is absolutely correct in his coupon, £52 10s. will be given to the competitor whose estimate is most nearly correct. In the event of a tie the £52 10s. will be divided.
4. JOHN BULL and "Lotinga's Weekly" will not accept any responsibility whatever in the matter of the non-delivery or delay of any attempt submitted.
5. All correspondence, whether personal or by letter, in the matter of the conduct of this competition will be ignored.
6. Readers in Scotland are precluded from taking part in our Football Competition owing to the attitude of their Law officers.
7. All competitors claiming prizes must send in their claims by the Thursday following the matches played.
8. All competitors must put the name and number of the competition on the top left-hand corner of the front of the envelope containing coupons or claims, and their names and addresses must be distinctly written on the back of the envelope.
9. Competitors sending in claims must forward copy of coupons to which their claims refer.

Mark your envelopes "Football No. 4" and post your attempts so that they reach JOHN BULL, 93 and 94, Long Acre, London, W.C., not later than mid-day on Thursday, January 25th next.

See page 90 for Result of Competition No. 1.

THE GREAT £1,000 "FOOTBALL FINAL" COMPETITION £1,000

On February 3rd next thirty-two clubs engage in the Second Round of the competition proper for the Football Cup.

Of all these thirty-two only four can appear in the Semi-Finals, and only two in the Final Tie at the Crystal Palace. Only one can win the Cup.

Students of football form are asked to test their skill by filling in the particulars given on our "Skill" Coupon.

£1,000 will be given to the competitor (or competitors) whose coupon is correct in every particular.

If no competitor forecasts the exact results, £52 10 0 will be given to the sender of the most correct attempt. In the event of a tie, the money will be divided between the successful competitors.

The conditions governing our other Football Competition hold good in this case.

Mark your envelopes "Final," and send them so that they will be received at JOHN BULL Offices, 93 & 94, Long Acre, London, W.C., not later than mid-day, Friday, February 2nd next.

It is only by knowledge of football form that you can succeed in giving all the particulars required. Therefore we advise you to give your attention to "Football Favourites" which appear each week in this journal. Your coupon MUST be taken from either JOHN BULL or "Lotinga's Weekly."

Further offers of large Money Prizes will be made after the decision of the Second Round.

NO ENTRANCE FEE.

2 COUPON.

THE FOOTBALL CUP COMPETITION.

The following four Clubs in my judgment will contest the Semi-Finals. The number of goals each will score in the actual deciding games are as given below:

Clubs	Goals	Clubs	Goals
.....		v.	
.....		v.	

The following two Clubs will contest the Final Tie this season and I judge the number of goals each will score in the actual deciding game to be

Club	Goals	Club	Goals
.....		v.	

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

THE HIGHEST STANDARD OF QUALITY.

"Black & White" Whisky

Jas. Buchanan & Co., Ltd., Glasgow & London.

"Keen appetite and good digestion" are

essentially youthful characteristics, well worth maintaining as one grows older. The habit of taking Mustard regularly at meals is one of the best means of maintaining this splendid condition. Let the Mustard be the best, let it be

Colman's D.S.F. mustard

IS YOUR HEART BAD?

Feel your pulse. Is it regular? Do you ever have Palpitation, Shortness of Breath, Skipping a Beat, Cold Hands or Feet, Dropsy, Pains under the Left Shoulder Blade, Trouble in Lying on Left Side, Dizzy Spells, Drowsiness after Eating, Violent Starts in Your Sleep, Pulsess in the Throat, Neu-algia Atound the Heart?

If you have any of these symptoms, is it not time to correct them?

Our Oxien has proved an almost infallible cure of Heart Disease and its many complications. Let us send you a free package, that you may, without cost, try its effects upon your trouble.

We will send you the week's trial treatment, relying on you telling your friends if it does you good. Full particulars of use and of some of the cures with every package. It costs you nothing to try.—THE GIANT OXIE CO., LTD. (Dept. 222 FF), 8, Bouverie Street, London, E.C.

FREE BOX OXIEN.

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For all Kinds of Razor Blades

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PUT FIVE SHILLINGS IN YOUR POCKET.

Money saved is money earned. You can make yourself a present of 5/- every time you buy a pair of boots—if you buy Barratt's warranted all-leather "Footshape" boots—and, what is more, make certain of a perfect fit and absolute satisfaction. "Footshapes" are equal in every respect to the boots you have been in the habit of paying from 12/6 to 16/6 for at the boot shop. Buy direct from the factory, save middleman's profits, and have your money back in full if you are not satisfied. Nothing could be fairer. Send a trial order TO-DAY and judge for yourself.

DESCRIPTIONS.

No. 1617. BOX CALF BOOT, 8/6.—Splendid Box Calf Uppers, straight golosh, no outside seam, unbreakable jockey back, toe capped (as illustrated), best linen lined, specially selected, hard wearing solid leather sole, sewn. Best make and finish throughout.

No. 1717. GLACE KID BOOT, 8/6.—Exactly same style and quality as above, but slightly lighter in weight.

No. 1617. BROWN WILLOW CALF, 8/6—A magnificent boot, rich nut-brown shade and warranted real "Willow" Calf. (Note, Brown costs 1/- ex ra.)

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SIZES: 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 (size 12, 1/- extra). Each size is made in four differen: widths: No. 3 width (for slender feet); No 4 (medium); No. 5 (wide); No. 6 (extra wide). Simply state the style number of boot, and size and width required.

If size is not known, send an old boot, or draw outline of stockinged foot on paper. (Outline of boot is of no use.)

Made of best tanned and well seasoned leather, and specially built for Winter wear.

COUPON.

John Bull, Jan. 20th, 1912. For "Footshape" Boots on trial.

No.....

Size.....

Width.....

If I am not satisfied you are to return my money in full.

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Write today for our 144 page Illustrated Catalogue. FREE! on receipt of 2d., cost of postage only.

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W. BARRATT & CO., LTD.,

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(Desk 66) Sterling Works, NORTHAMPTON.

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Instant Relief in Asthma, Bronchitis, Croup, and Whooping Cough by the use of Potter's Asthma Cure, in 1/- Tins. Sold everywhere. For FREE SAMPLE send post card to POTTER & CLARKE, LTD., Artillery Lane, London, E. [Mention this Magazine.

Instant Relief.

BE SURE TO LOOK AT THE OUT SIDE BACK-COVER.

RACING NOTES.

By W. LOTINGA.

["*Larry Lynx*" *of* THE PEOPLE, "*Double U. L.*" *of* LOTINGA'S WEEKLY, *and* "*Magpie*" *of* THE GLOBE.]

The Lincoln.

Don't forget to try for the £100 which *Lotinga's Weekly* offers for anticipating what weights the horses will get. If you cannot quite succeed, there is still the consolation prize.

Prophetic.

Quite a big week's sport, and this issue just in time for the support of one of the best things of the period in

FLYING LORIS,

who must surely gain to-day's Ogbourne Steeplechase at Newbury, where also CHILI II. and even the wayward BLACK SEA—as bottom weight amongst the worst horses in training—must have chances in their respective races.

At Lingfield, KILWILLIAM and QUINTON should win their engagements, whilst Batho's stable promises to score two or three times, possibly with MELUSINE II. in Friday's Hurdle Handicap, but more particularly on Saturday with

BOUTON ROUGE

in the Eden Vale Handicap, and THE GUN, if started, for the Maiden Plate.

FOOTBALL SELECTIONS.

By "McW."

The Briton dearly loves to "back his fancy," whether it be in a horse race, a boxing bout, or a football match. Thousands and thousands of people fill up their football coupons each week, and I have been asked to furnish hints and guidance to the "punters." Accordingly, every Thursday I shall give my list of Probable Winners, Possible Winners, and Doubtfuls. In the games to be decided on Saturday, January 20, the following are my fancies:—

PROBABLES.

Aston Villa, Newcastle, Barnsley, Derby, Brighton, Northampton, Preston North End, Bristol Rovers, Luton.

POSSIBLES.

Manchester United, Burnley, Fulham, Notts Forest, West Ham, Millwall, Queen's Park Rangers, Brentford, Spurs, Bradford.

DOUBTFUL.

All other League matches.

For the benefit of those taking part in our £1,000 Competition, I would state that my fancies for the high scoring games on January 27th are *Sheffield Wednesday* v. *Notts County*, *Birmingham* v. *Stockport*, *Watford* v. *Millwall*. As alternatives, I suggest Manchester City *v.* Newcastle, Bristol City *v.* Leeds City, Southampton *v.* Swindon.

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to open a Credit Account with
MR. C. H. STAPLETON.
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whose terms will give you the utmost satisfaction and give you opportunities hitherto unobtainable. Therefore be wise and write immediately stating amount of weekly credit required.

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£100 FREE PRIZE OFFERED WEEKLY.
Send for my **FOOTBALL** terms. Odds greatly extended.
Postcards 1d. Kindly mention this paper. Letters 2½d.

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Send for Coupons. Every match in the 1st Scottish, 1st and 2nd English and Southern Leagues to choose from.
PATRICK FARLEY,
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NO LIMIT TO DOUBLES OR TREBLES. LETTERS COMMISSIONS. Pay at Night. Write for Terms.

FOOTBALL!
WHITE, FISHER & CO. THE WORLD'S PREMIER Football Accountants.
BASLE, SWITZERLAND,
beg to announce that the
ENORMOUS ODDS OF 2,000 to 1
HAVE BEEN LAID AND PAID ON OCTOBER 7th.
£100 TO ONE SHILLING.
This fortunate client, Mr. Albert Hobden, 8, Guildford Street, Brighton, having predicted 4 scores successfully. £1,000 will be paid to any charity if not genuine. Full particulars will be sent upon receipt of a postcard. Mention this paper and we will send you a sample packet, FREE OF COST, of our famous FOOTBALL WHIFF CIGARETTES. Letters should not bear postmark later than 2 p.m. on Saturday.
Every Match to choose from in the 4 Leagues. Nothing barred for the Cup except Aston Villa and Swindon.
Football Chat, November 22, says:—"Established firms of repute such as Messrs. White, Fisher & Co. conduct their business with a scrupulous fairness and impartiality that could well provide an object lesson to many commercial houses."
The Editor of the Racing Judge, October 7th, says:—"A friend tells us that one of the sights of Basle, Switzerland, is the arrival of White, Fisher & Co.'s mail every Sunday."

FOOTBALL.
SEND FOR COUPONS.
J. McLAUCHLAN,
Turf and Football Accountant,
Lucerne, Switzerland. Established 19 years.
Full Market Prices. CREDIT ACCOUNTS.
Business all the year round.
Write 16, PRINCES STREET, EDINBURGH.

FOOTBALL
THE SPORTSMAN, July 14th, 1911, says:—"BERT FRY, one of the best-known of the Flushing Turf Accountants, has removed his offices to Basle, Switzerland."
BERT FRY, BASLE 2, SWITZERLAND.
"JOHN BULL" says: "Every week we are inundated with complaints from people who have been defrauded by bogus football accountants. To a very great extent it serves them right, as, instead of accepting fictitious odds offered them by strangers, they could entrust their business to a reliable firm, like that of Bert Fry, and be sure of receiving their winnings."
Special Half-Time Sheet. £50 Free Prize Weekly.
Free Postage.

'FOOTBALL.'
Do your Business with
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Football Accountants.
BASLE, SWITZERLAND.
LOTINGA'S WEEKLY.—This firm has established itself as reliable, and their terms are both liberal and fair to both parties.

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Silver-Plated Cigarette Lighters
GIVEN AWAY EVERY WEEK
Absolutely Free.
1d. Postcard will bring you Full Particulars.

Free Postage. Free Postage.
FOOTBALL!
Were you welshed on Dec. 9th or Dec. 30th? If so make certain of not being welshed again and entrust your business to
H. HAMILTON & CO.,
The Oldest Established Football Accountants in the World.
What the Press says of us:—
Lotinga's Weekly for Dec. 30th, 1911, says:—"It is absolutely the punter's own fault if he is now welshed at Football betting when there are such firms as H. HAMILTON & CO. transacting business on Football."
The Licensed Victuallers Gazette for Dec. 22nd, 1911, says:—"We hear on good authority that Messrs. H. HAMILTON & CO., paid out on December 9th what most people would consider a fortune. There are a lot of football speculators who will be sorry that they did not entrust their commissions to this well known firm."
The Irish Sporting Illustrated for Dec. 23rd, 1911, says:—"Football speculators cannot do better than entrust their commissions to Messrs. H. HAMILTON & CO., and so make certain of receiving when they win.
Send a postcard (postage 1d.) for the most liberal price list issued. Our Football Annual sent free on mentioning this paper.
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The CLEMAK is the ONLY *first-class* Safety Razor on the market which is sold at a FAIR Price.
If you are using one of the old-fashioned open-blade Razors—you should get a Clemak *at once*. It cannot "pull" the beard—prevents soreness and irritation. Gives a clean, cool, comfortable shave—every time. Impossible to cut yourself—you must shave at the correct angle.
The Clemak Safety Razor is BRITISH MADE—simple—strong—durable.
The Clemak complete 5s. Outfit consists of Triple Silver-Plated Frame beautifully finished); Self-contained Stropping Handle; and Seven Perfect Blades. These blades are made of the Finest Grade Sheffield Steel, hardened and tempered by a Special Electric Process; the whole contained in a case, size 2 ins. by 3¼ ins.

CLEMAK Safety Razor 5/-

YOU DON'T THROW AWAY THE BLADES OF A CLEMAK SAFETY RAZOR—YOU STROP THEM.

You can strop Clemak Blades by using the Stropping Handle—but we recommend everyone to buy a Clemak Stropper—price 3s. 6d., including a good leather Strop. It compels you to strop at the *correct* angle and pressure. Ensures a keen Blade for every Shave—*with no expense for new Blades*. It saves its cost many times over, because it eliminates the expense of new blades which you must have with other Safety Razors. The Clemak Safety Razor and the Clemak Stropper is a perfect Shaving Combination. They cost altogether 8s. 6d., and last a lifetime. Why pay a guinea?

Obtainable from Cutlers, Ironmongers, Stores, etc., or Post Free direct from Clemak Razor Co. (Room 4), 17, Billiter Street, London, E.C.

"His First Shave," 2nd Edition. A story for shavers young and old, humorously illustrated by Arthur Mansbridge, post free on application.

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To each of the holders of copies of JOHN BULL *of specified date*, bearing any of such numbers, we will, upon production within seven days of publication (a reasonable extension will be allowed to foreign and Colonial claimants) of a sufficient portion of the cover to identify the date and number, pay the sum of TWO GUINEAS in return for his using his best endeavour for one week to increase our circulation. Before the money is paid we require a full report of all the work done.

The following claim has been received for our issue of December 16th:—

HARRY BAKER, 207, St. Leonard's Street, Bromley-by-Bow. No. 567,135. December 16th.

The following are the fifty numbers for the issue of December 23rd:—

8140	213023	363952	543343	763499
39069	225015	384173	588456	770426
51700	246480	399958	625248	773912
62358	252974	427203	642369	774381
80510	257915	449238	648647	810413
88024	268680	460151	708095	821394
123141	272944	477902	715615	836691
140618	313992	484885	731129	851525
145887	346711	519783	751245	856849
200700	356073	525935	753410	868184

THE FIFTY NUMBERS IN RESPECT OF THIS WEEK WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN OUR ISSUE DATED FEBRUARY 17TH (PUBLISHED FEBRUARY 15TH).

The John Bull League.

OBJECTS: To Stamp out Cant and Self-Righteousness; to abolish Cranks and Killjoys; to Create a Robust and Self-reliant Public Opinion; and to Promote a Common Sense Business Government for a Common Sense Business People.

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The General Secretary,
93, Long Acre, London, W.C.

Please enrol me as a Member and send me a Membership Badge, for which I enclose P.O. for 6d.

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